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14 take oath as new US citizens. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Fire engulfs car; 3 hurt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three persons were hurt when a car that collided with another vehicle caught fire at the accident-prone intersection of Beach Road and Quartermaster Road shortly before noon yesterday.

See FIRE on Page 4

A burning Mitsubishi Lancer car is engulfed in flames after it collided with a Mazda 3 vehicle. The fire from the car sent thick smoke billowing into the air over the Beach Road-Quartermaster intersection yesterday at noon. Three persons were injured, but no one suffered any burns. This specific intersection is a notorious accident-prone area.

BRIAN G. MAILMAN

$180K seized in last 18 months—DOF

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance seized about $180,000 in undeclared cash that various people were attempting to sneak into the CNMI in the last 18 months, according to a department representative.

According to captain Jesse Atalig of the Customs Division during a meeting with the House Committee in Ways and Means yesterday, "… That's just a rough estimate."

He said during yesterday's budget hearing for the upcoming fiscal year 2019 budget that the undeclared cash originated from Guam and Asia. He was unable to disclose the exact origins of the undeclared cash.

See $180K on Page 4

Torres: Summit should stabilize region

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is hopeful the historic meeting between President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would ease tensions in the Pacific and stabilize peace in the region.

Trump briefly stopped over at Guam's Andersen Air Force Base at around 2am yesterday as Air Force One was refueled after a one-day summit meeting at Sentosa in Singapore. Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo met with Trump aboard Air Force One.

Pacific Daily News earlier quoted the U.S. President as saying that he plans to no longer allow bomb-

See TORRES on Page 4

Maybe the spectacle is what truly counted

NEW YORK (AP)—Put aside the "deliverables" and the "outcomes" and the "takeaways." Put aside, for argument's sake, the question of what was actually accomplished, at least in the way that we usually use the word. Put aside your politics, even—if only for a moment.

The summit that brought Donald Trump of Washington and Kim Jong Un of Pyongyang together for gripping, grinning and talking Tuesday is being vigorously debated across the planet for what it did, what it didn't do and who emerged on top.

Strip away the spectacle and look

See MAYBE on Page 4

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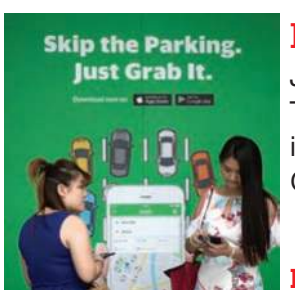

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Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp. is investing $1 billion in Grab.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Before paying the deposit to build a new patio, take a moment and step outside.

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Local

Hard Rock Café marks 47 years

Hard Rock Café is celebrating its 47th anniversary worldwide and Hard Rock Café Guam and Saipan's 20th year.

In celebration of the big 20, Hard Rock Guam and Saipan's management will be celebrating by allowing the Guam and CNMI community to indulge in some of Hard Rock's delicious dishes at lower price

Today, June 14, 2018, for one hour only, Hard Rock's Legendary Burger will be available for a mere $ 0.71. Jump on this once-in-a lifetime opportunity as it will be offered only today, from 11 am to 12 noon.

Hard Rock Cafe Guam and Saipan, in celebration of 20 years on both Islands, is also offering 20-percent off on all their dishes (excluding set menus and the $0.71 burger), non-alcoholic beverages, and souvenir items at any Hard Rock shops.

To avail of these spectacular promotions, you must provide any form of local identification upon paying. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

IT&E joins Liberation Day title sponsors

IT&E has joined the list of growing title sponsors for this year's Liberation Day festivities.

IT&E presented a $5,0000 cash donation to Saipan Mayor David Apatang, 2018 Liberation Day Committee chair Joe Ayuyu, and members of the committee on June 8, 2018.

"Liberation Day is a special time for us here in the Marianas to come together and celebrate the resiliency of our people and our culture. This is an event we support every year, and we're proud do our part for another year of fun and memorable festivities for our community," said Jim Oehlerking, chief executive officer of IT&E.

The last day for floats and marching units to register for this year's Liberation Day parade is June 15.

Applications are available at www.saipanmayor.net and must be submitted to applicable fees to the Office of the Mayor before 4:30pm on Friday.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the best floats: $4,000 for first place, $3,000 for second place, $2,000 for third place, and $1,000 for fourth place.

IT&E Customer Service manager Janice Tenorio presents a title sponsorship donation to Saipan Mayor David Apatang and members of the 2018 Liberation Day Committee on June 8, 2018. The Liberation Day festivities will be held from June 29 to July 7, 2018, at Garapan Fishing Base. From left are Liberation Day Committee member Louis Rodgers, committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr., Apatang, Tenorio, Saipan Mayor's Office's staffer Henry Hofschneider, and IT&E Business Account manager Rex Moses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marching units, villages, government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and school are welcome to apply.

The parade will be held at 3pm on July 4, 2018, from National Office to the Liberation Day festival grounds at Garapan Fishing Base.

Parade sequence will be announced at the mandatory safety briefing on June 28 at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

The Liberation Day festivities will be held at Garapan Fishing Base from June 29-July 7, 2018, from 6pm to 10pm (closing at 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays).

The celebration will include food and drink sales, live entertainment, games, arts and craft sales, and more. This year's Liberation Day theme is "Sea to Shining Sea," celebrating the International Year of the Coral Reef and the islands' oceanic heritage and cultures. ***(PR)***

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LibDay Royal Court coronation date set in July

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court coronation has finally been given a date and venue: on July 1 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

This was learned during the Liberation Day committee's weekly meeting last Tuesday. Liberation Day Royal Court chair Monique Boyer Sablan informed the committee of the coronation date.

According to Sablan, she has distributed over 50,000 tickets to this year's five candidates, which means ticket sales seem to be going well.

The pageant is a fundraising event for the Liberation Day festivities. The candidates are required to sell tickets and the one who raises the largest amount is crowned the Liberation Day queen.

This year's Liberation Day candidates are Brinae Jessilyn Maratita Cruz, Lovely Joey B. Loyola, Connie B. Mendiola, Milagro Omar Palacio, and Taylor Chong Sablan.

Cruz, 14, resides in San Antonio. She is in 8th grade and attends Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School. She joined the Liberation Day pageant to gain experience and meet new people. She also hopes to encourage other young women to join the pageant in the years to come.

"Life has just begun for me and I want to take every opportunity to expose myself before my chances are over, making every second count during my teen years," she said.

Loyola is 15 years old and lives in Chalan Kiya. She is a freshman at Marianas High School. Loyala chose to join the pageant so she could break out of her shell and be more social.

Mendiola is 14 years old and lives in Dandan. She attends Saipan Southern High School and she is currently in 9th grade. According to Mendiola, her reasons for participating is to get involved with the community, gain experience as a public figure, and boost her self-confidence.

Palacio is 14 years old and lives in Susupe. She attends Marianas High School where she is a freshman. Palacio's motive to join was her friends and family. "People were talking about it. My friends and family urged me to join this year's royal court," she said.

At 17, Sablan is the eldest in the group. She lives in i-Denni. Sablan attends school at Kagman High School and is in 11th grade. Sablan seeks to become closer to the CNMI community. "This pageant will open more doors for me to get involved, give back, and meet new people," she said.

Pot bill returns to House committee

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is hoping to get more information on the bill that hopes to legalize and regulate use of cannabis in the CNMI, especially if there's any relation on marijuana use and crime.

Senate Bill 20-62, introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), has drawn mixed reviews from the community and has gone back to the CNMI House Judicial and Governmental Operations committee on issues about revenue generation.

Colorado, Washington State, Alaska, Oregon, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Washington D.C. have already passed laws that taxes, legalize, and regulate marijuana use either for medicinal or recreational purposes.

And Torres wants to look into these states and if there's any correlation between marijuana use crime, the types of crime committed and if there had been any increase.

"We should look at other states that have this in the last 10 years against one year," Torres said. "What are the crimes that have been committed in the first year? Is there any correlation on the crime that was committed versus the passage of marijuana legalization? If there is, can we detect if those [crimes] are from marijuana use."

Another concern, Torres said, is if the bill would allow unlimited dispensaries. "Whether that is right or wrong? Is it the right thing to do? And how much are we going to charge for [issuing permits], $50 as against $500?"

"How much would be the penalties for those who are going to be caught selling [illegally]. These are not as easy as we want to. We want to be more stringent. There are a lot of states that legalized marijuana and we should look at those states."

"That's why we want to get statistics across the board. It makes it easier to decide whether to support it or not," said Torres.

He added that further research needs to be done and he also needs to read the full report made by the House and the Senate.

"There are some concerns and I'm sure they [Legislature] are going to make some changes. Again, this is a new industry. There will be changes along the way since there's no perfect bill." "If we have the best interest to regulate it, then I think we're in the right direction. There are some issues that were raised that the Legislature needs to revisit. If we're going to do it, we should do it right," Torres added.

Funding for Guma Hustisia mold remediation, AC heads to Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The final actions needed to review the Judiciary's mold remediation and air-conditioning purchase now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after both chambers of the Legislature adopted the conference committee report.

The House adopted in Monday's session the Conference Committee report 20-03, which reported on Rep. Angel Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-164 with a vote of 19-1. The bill seeks to appropriate $15 million from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account to several programs in the CNMI, including the Judiciary's request for funding to address its mold issue and to buy new air-conditioning units for the Guma Hustisia.

The Guma Hustisia has been closed for about three months now due to the mold problem, which has only worsened after the building's air-conditioning units failed.

The Senate, at their June 6, 2018, session, adopted the report and, with the House adopting the report as well, sets the bill on track toward Torres' desk for enactment.

H.B. 20-164 also addresses several CNMI obligations such as land compensation; balances owed private telecommunications company Docomo Pacific for Rota and Tinian connectivity; and the Sugar Dock rebuilding project, among many others.

Only Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) voted against the adoption of the conference committee report.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that Saipan will receive about $1.7 million in appropriation, while Rota and Tinian would get about $1.2 million each.

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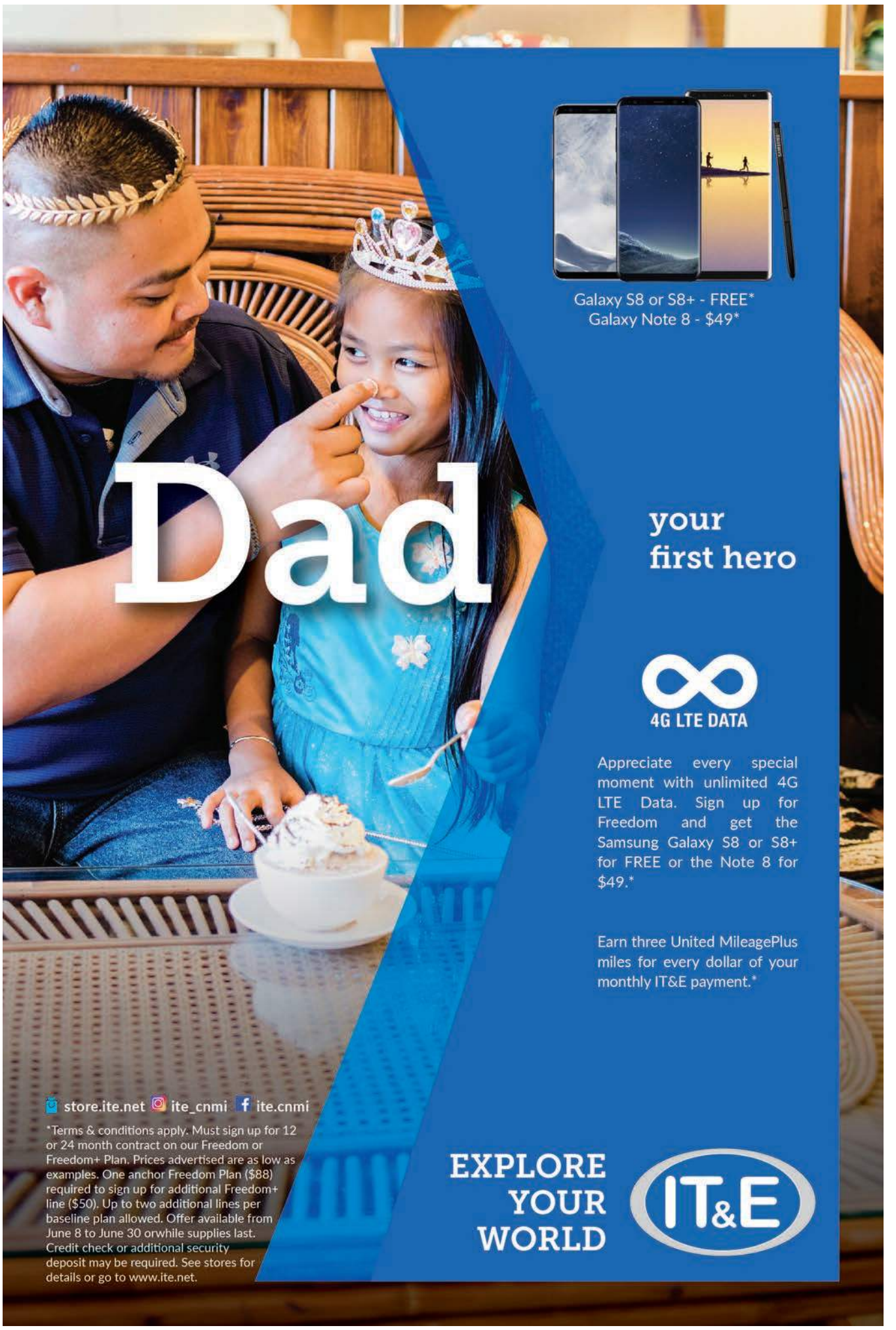
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FBI seeks identity of ATM skimming suspect

TAMUNING, Guam—The FBI is seeking the public's help in identifying a man who was captured on surveillance video placing a skimming device on a Bank of Guam ATM in the Micronesia Mall on Tuesday, June 5.

Anyone with information about the identity of this suspect is urged to call the FBI Guam office at (671) 645-1809. Anonymous tips are welcome and information received will be treated as confidential.

The device was a piece of surreptitious surveillance equipment used to steal from customer accounts, known as a "skimmer." ATM skimming is a criminal activity that costs U.S. banks hundreds of millions of dollars annually and affects thousands of bank customers.

While law enforcement is constantly working to catch skimmers, the public is always urged to take basic precautions to protect against skimming at ATMs, gas stations, and other vulnerable card reader locations.

The public is urged to follow precautions to avoid falling victim to skimming:

■ Inspect the ATM, gas pump, or credit card reader before using it...be suspicious if you see anything loose, crooked, or damaged, or if you notice scratches or adhesive/tape residue.

■ When entering your PIN, block the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.

■ If possible, use an ATM at an inside location (less access for criminals to install skimmers).

■ Be careful of ATMs in tourist areas...they are a popular target of skimmers.

■ If your card is not returned after the transaction or after hitting "cancel," immediately contact the financial institution that issued the card.

The FBI is working jointly on this matter with the Guam Attorney General's Office and the Gaum Police Department. ***(PR)***

FIRE

From Page 1

Witnesses said the 18-year-old male driver of the black Mitsubishi Lancer did not suffer any burns as he managed to get out when smoke started coming out of the vehicle's engine before it was engulfed in flames.

The teenager complained of pain in his right arm. He was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center and was later released.

The driver of the red Mazda 3 car that collided with the Lancer was a 43-year-old woman. Her passengers were her two children, ages 9 years old and a 1 year old.

The mother sustained a laceration behind her left ear and minor abrasions on her forearm. She was brought to CHC by an ambulance with her two children. The 9-year-old had minor injuries, while the infant had no injuries.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesperson Derek Gersonde stated that DFEMS received a call from the Department of Public Safety 911 at 11:58am that a car was burning at the intersection of Quartermaster Road and Beach Road.

Firefighters and emergency medical technicians from DFEMS Garapan and Susupe fire stations arrived at the scene at 12:03pm.

DFEMS personnel came upon a car that was already engulfed in flames. Firefighters extinguished the blaze and placed it under control at 12:11pm.

Gersonde said the car that was on fire was involved in a collision with another car that was still at the scene.

Emergency medical technicians tended to the two injured drivers and the two children.

Gersonde said the 18-year-old driver, who was standing by the side of the road, stated that he was heading north when his car hit the other vehicle that had strayed into his lane.

The 18-year-old driver was brought to CHC by an ambulance.

The driver of the other car and her two children were also standing by the side of the road. She stated that she was heading out of Quartermaster Road and head south when the other car, which was heading north, hit their vehicle.

Gersonde said arson investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the car fire.

DPS spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said preliminary investigation showed that the Mitsubishi Lancer being driven by the 19-year-old male was heading north on Beach Road in the inner lane.

At the same time, an unidentified vehicle was traveling the same direction in the outer lane, while the red Mazda 3 was heading west on Quartermaster Road.

Shepard said when the unknown vehicle turned right onto Quartermaster, the Mazda 3 turned left onto Beach Road and collided head on with the Mitsubishi Lancer.

Shepard said that, according to the driver of the Mitsubishi Lancer, fire started under the hood of his car, then quickly spread throughout the vehicle.

"No citation for the accident has been issued yet as an investigation is currently underway," Shepard said.

The accident caused heavy traffic along Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold Road for over two hours.

The DFEMS and DPS information officers had different descriptions of ages involved in the accident. DFEMS said the driver of the Mitsubishi Lancer is 18 years old, while the driver of the Mazda 3 is 43 years old and the children are 9 years old and 1 year old.

DPS, on the other hand, said the driver of the Lancer is 19 years old, while the driver of the Mazda 3 is 39 years old, and the children are a 10-year-old and an infant.

In February 2017, a car driven by a 19-year-old student caught fire on As Terlaje Hill near the Northern Marianas College. The student was not hurt as he managed to get out of the car on time.

In June 2017, a 19-year-old woman was killed when a car she was driving slammed into NMC's retaining wall, then went straight toward the concrete traffic light pole at the eastern shoulder of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and intersection of Tun Antonio Apa Road. The vehicle was engulfed in flames while the driver was trapped inside.

A vehicle catches fire at the intersection of Beach Road and Quartermaster Road shortly before noon yesterday. BRIAN G. MAILMAN

TORRES

From Page 1

ers at the Andersen base to participate in war games in the Korean peninsula. Torres said Trump has been criticized since becoming President but this hasn't stopped the former businessman from performing his duties.

"A lot of criticism had been done with Trump since he got into the position as our President and criticisms continue against him. He's the only President that signed an executive order to take care of our veterans. [The EO is] to allow veterans to go to any doctor," said Torres.

But the historic meeting with Kim, the first by any sitting U.S. President, is the most important thing that Trump has managed to accomplish in his second year as commander-in-chief of the world's most powerful nation, Torres said. "Look at what he has done with North Korea. Now they have an agreement, a relationship that would really create peace."

The Pacific, particularly in Micronesia, would be one of the beneficiaries of this historic meeting if it does result in peace, as it would ease the tension in the region since North Korea announced plans to develop nuclear weapons.

North Korea has threatened to attack Guam using its alleged nuclear weapons, fanning tensions in the Korean peninsula and its already volatile relationship with the United States and its allies in the region.

The meeting, what could be the first of a series, could also be a step toward the denuclearization of North Korea and a possible reunification with the South. Last April, Kim also met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in where both leaders stepped on each other's side of the demilitarized zone.

"It [the meeting] is probably more important in our side of the world. We've seen some threats in the last couple of years, and I think those threats should no longer be part of our day-to-day living. Now that there's stability and peace…in our region, it is a good thing for all of us," added Torres.

$180K

From Page 1

Atalig said the Department of Finance, of which the Customs Division is a part of, is looking at securing a dog trained in sniffing out concealed currency.

Called currency dogs, Atalig said each one costs $12,500.

Currently, there are six drug-detecting dogs as well as two patrol dogs for the Department of Public Safety as well as a couple more dogs for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, according to Atalig.

"We will definitely look into that [request]," said House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan). During discussions, Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) suggested four currency dogs instead, but Demapan said discussions about this would continue with DOF since more dogs would mean additional costs for the department, due to the additional handlers.

DOF wants a budget of over $8.18 million for fiscal year 2019, while Demapan said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had proposed about $7.6 million.

In fiscal year 2018, DOF got a budget of about $5.2 million.

The majority of the difference in the budget, according to Demapan, would go to the DOF enforcement division funding. He explained that up until recently, the enforcement division was funded by the hotel occupancy tax.

"…They have been moved out of the hotel occupancy tax to be funded by the general fund. That is the biggest factor in the…increase," said Demapan, adding that $1.7 million is for the enforcement division alone, which has about 37 employees.

Overall, Demapan believes the DOF budget request is something they "can work with." While tax collection hindrances also affect the CNMI, beefing up collection efforts through investments could make a difference for the government, he said.

"Oftentimes, we sacrifice… programs and services in the government to make up for the loss," he said.

MAYBE

From Page 1

for the substance, the pundits insist. But what if that's not the whole point? What if, on a sunny tropical morning in Singapore, the spectacle itself was the most substantial thing of all?

"People thought this could never take place. It is now taking place," Trump said after the meeting. And in that he is utterly correct. A decade ago, a year ago and certainly six months ago, the notion of these two sitting down together—"Little Rocket Man" and the "deranged U.S. dotard," as they derisively called each other—seemed unfathomable.

This is not a meditation on whether it was right for Trump to meet with Kim, or whether by doing so he legitimized a despot. That's up to you to decide. Instead, let's examine whether, in a modern media age when we do so many things remotely and then move on with lightning speed, an old-fashioned tete-a-tete—no matter how high-profile or tabloidy—is still important of its own accord.

First of all, the notion of personal relationships—of actually looking someone in the eye—is of great importance in East Asia. No matter how heartfelt the letter, no matter how big the envelope, correspondence can easily fall short. Face-to-face interaction is far superior to any other form of contact—a version of what George W. Bush, referring years ago to Vladimir Putin, called the ability to "get a sense of his soul."

People who seem intransigent or even sullen in writing or on the phone can bloom with generosity if you sit down together with a cup of tea or a glass of soju, Korea's clear and potent liquor. So what might be considered a concession by some is, in much of East Asia, simply table stakes.

But what actually HAPPENED at the summit beyond the spectacle, you ask? What is really going to come out of this other than words? Isn't the act of meeting with Kim nothing more than a miscue that legitimizes his regime?

What happened was that they talked and shook hands and breathed the same air and walked away, by all appearances, in reasonably good moods. What happened was that 70 years of conflict were supplanted for a historical micromoment with a few hours of collegiality, at least on the surface.

What happened was that South Korean media noticed that Trump wasn't domineering in his approach to Kim as he has been with some European leaders.

Dads should take the lead

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated fourth from left, joins health officials and organizers of the CNMI Men's Health Week for a group photo after yesterday's proclamation signing at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. conference room. Other photo shows Torres signing the proclamation declaring June 17 to 23 as CNMI Men's Health Week.

Fathers should always take the lead in having a healthy lifestyle, especially in keeping themselves active and fit, so they could enjoy spending more time with their love ones.

Public Health Services director Margarita Torres-Aldan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pointed out this out in yesterday's proclamation signing at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. conference room that designated June 17 to 23 as CNMI Men's Health Week.

Acting Saipan mayor Luis John Castro and Department of Fires and Emergency Services personnel Robert Mojica alternately read the proclamation.

Aldan said the community must help each other lead healthier lifestyles. "Everything is about lifestyle behavior and lifestyle change. We encourage each other to follow the right way."

She added that federal health officials also push them to have programs that promote a healthy lifestyle for men. "Even in our [application for] grants, they are also telling us to focus on men. Have fathers involved whether it is in family planning or others."

"I always tell my boys that there's peer pressure but there's also positive peer pressure and not always the negative one that we hear all the time. Let's all work together to keep and make [us] healthy," she said.

Torres admits that he is guilty of not taking care of his health but encouraged all men in the community to change their lifestyle and become more active.

"I'm having a hard time distinguishing what's…good food but healthy. All of us [men], inside this room, how many of us had gone to get tested for your health; a test for heart disease, cancer or diabetes in the last six months? Be honest," he said.

Only four men who were present raised their hands.

"We are all guilty in terms of taking care of our health, so it is not just me," Torres said. "[But] at the end of the day, it is our family that will be hurt."

The CNMI Men's Health Week aims to educate and have men participate in health screenings.

It will also promote awareness on a range of health issues that affect men like cancer (prostrate, testicular, and colon), diabetes, and heart disease. Organizers of the event are encouraging all men, especially dads, to wear blue on June 17, Sunday, which is Father's Day, while a special segment will be hosted at KKMP's radio talk show at 7:30am on Monday, June 17.

A roadside waving will be held on Monday from 4pm to 5:30pm while a health screening from 9am to 11:30am at the Governor's Office is scheduled on Tuesday. A 5-kilometer walk will be held on June 20 at Minachom Atdao starting at 5pm while another one will be done on Rota on Friday, June 22. Another health screening outreach is scheduled on Thursday, June 21, from 9am to 11:30am at the Department of Public Works parking lot next to the First Hawaiian Bank. There will also be a health screening at the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 11:30am on Friday.

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14 take oath as new US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, seated center, immigration services officer Shelia Kelty, front right, and Janet H. King, front left, pose for a group photo with the 14 new U.S. citizens after a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday.

For Jessa Jade Seclon Cruz, taking her oath yesterday as a new U.S. citizens means she can now vote in the Commonwealth.

"I'm very glad and so happy," said the 33-year-old Cruz, who originally hailed from the Philippines and first came to Saipan on May 29, 2006, and is married to Tinian and Aguiguan Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz.

Roque Tolentino Feliciano, 63, cited the same reason, saying he is excited about voting in the Nov. 6 election.

Feliciano, who hailed from Aklan, Philippines, used to work as a merchant marine officer. He first arrived on Saipan in 2005 to work for G4S.

Feliciano said he waited for more than 10 years to finally obtain his American citizenship, which he got because of his marriage to a U.S. citizen.

Feliciano has been working as a power plant operator at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Jessa Cruz and Feliciano were among the 14 who took their oaths as new U.S. citizens in a naturalization ceremony yesterday morning in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the ceremony. Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty presented the 14 new citizens.

The new U.S. citizens are from the Philippines, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, and South Korea. There were supposed to be 16 but two were absent yesterday.

Manglona said that this year alone, there are now 115 naturalized citizens in the CNMI, including the 14 new ones.

» King serves as keynote speaker

Keynote speaker Janet H. King urged the new citizens to exercise their responsibilities. "I call on you to do something that is bigger than yourself, because as an American, a citizen of the greatest country in the world, you are a part of something bigger than just you," said King, who handles many immigration cases.

King said democracy is not a spectator sport.

"You don't just sit, you stand. You don't just watch, you act. You don't just hear, you, too, use your voice and be heard."

King's mother was born in 1942 in South Korea, where she lived her whole life until she married a Tinian resident in 1975. King's mother was in her 30's by the time she came to live on Tinian.

"My mother, like many of you here, lived for many years like an American, but not an American, even though her husband, my father, and her two children were United States citizens," King said.

King said that, like many of the new citizens, by being in America, her mother was able to seize the opportunities America gave her and her father to build a better life for the family, especially for her and her sister.

King said she was in school on the day her mother was naturalized 20 years after she married her father.

"I can only imagine—through the look in your eyes and your family's and friend's presence here today—how excited and happy you must feel," she said.

"Today, celebrate. Today, you have much to celebrate: You are new citizens of the greatest country in the world," King said.

King won the Miss CNMI Universe title in 2001.

Aside from Cruz and Feliciano, the 12 other new citizens are Jul Eve Quilantang Celis, Jesus Gantan De Jesus, Danilo Justo Guzarem, Ziaul Haque, Teresita Tesoro Lacorte, Guolan Zong Leung, Jameria Esguerra Paras, Nancy Espeleta Russell, Ruby De Guzman Sablan, Hyun Tag Seo, Rajendra Shrestha, and Evelyn Esteban Villanueva.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

Program Evaluation for Karidat's "Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking Program" Grant #2017-VT-BX-K025

General Information

This request for Proposal (RFP) from Karidat is to contract with an experienced Program Evaluator for the period of 07/01/2018 to 09/30/2020 to conduct a Program Evaluation of Karidat's Comprehensive Services to Victims of all Forms of Human Trafficking Program.

The primary goal of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of Karidat's Comprehensive Services for victims of all forms of human trafficking being served through our program. Our program evaluation will help us determine if our services are appropriate and adequate. The purpose of this solicitation is to identify and obtain the services of a qualified Evaluator to:

(a) Create and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan;
(b) Assist with data collection;
(c) Evaluate the Project with findings documented in progress reports and final report

It is expected that a decision selecting the successful applicant will be made within three weeks of the closing date of the receipt of proposals.

The deadline for submission for all proposals is 4:30Pm Chamorro Standard Time on June 15, 2018 by electronic submission to: lauri.ogumoro@karidat.org

To obtain a complete copy of the Proposal's Specifications, please pick up at Karidat Office in the VS Sablan Bldg., Chalan Piao. Tel. No. 234-6981

McDonald's is NMTI Gala diamond sponsor

For the second straight year, McDonald's Saipan will be a diamond sponsor at this year's NMTI Gala through their generous donation of $5,000.

"We have really grown our relationship with NMTI over the years as they continue to provide our community with trades education in areas critically needed," said Marcia Ayuyu, owner of JCA Inc., which operates McDonald's of Guam and Saipan. "Just as McDonald's supports education, this is our way of saying we support their training efforts. We just want to be a part of that growth by investing in their annual dinner fundraiser."

NMTI chief executive officer, Agnes M. McPhetres said that NMTI is blessed to have stakeholders that believe education is the key to economic stability.

"Trades education is quite more expensive as it requires countless hours of hands-on practice. I firmly believe that our community sees the need for NMTI, thus the strong support from individuals like Joe, Marcie and the Ayuyu family," said McPhetres.

Proceeds from this year's NMTI Gala will go to purchasing equipment and student tools in the construction trades areas that will widen students' hands-on experience.

Gala tickets are priced at $100 per person and can be bought by calling Ross Manglona at (670) 322-6684 or Julie Manglona at (670) 783-7682. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
McDonald's Saipan will be a diamond sponsor at this year's NMTI Gala through a generous donation of $5,000.

Cops identify persons of interest in hit-and-run

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story is being republished as it was inadvertently not included in yesterday's paper but was available on the Saipan Tribune website.

Police have identified persons of interest in the hit-and-run involving a car that mowed down a female tourist who was walking with a friend on the shoulder of Beach Road near Mascot Auto Parts in southern Garapan Friday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said yesterday that, after an extensive search, DPS police officers found the car—a four-door turquoise Toyota Corolla—and impounded it. A "person of interest" is not necessarily a suspect and is usually not arrested.

"An investigation is currently underway," Shepard said.

Shepard earlier stated that investigators believe the incident began as a purse snatching that ended in a hit-and-run.

Shepard said that DPS dispatch received a call on Friday at 1:14pm about a hit-and-run involving a pedestrian along Beach Road near Gold Beach Hotel.

Police investigation showed that two Chinese female tourists were walking on the northbound shoulder of Beach Road when a car that was traveling north hit one of them near Mascot Auto Parts. The car did not stop.

The 25-year-old victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she was treated and released with minor injuries.

Video of the incident taken from the surveillance camera of a nearby establishment that went viral on social media showed the tourist being sideswiped from the back by the car and falling on her back.

US House panel OKs military appropriations bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Senate Committee on Appropriations recently approved the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, which provides critical support for military infrastructure and veterans' healthcare.

As a senior member on the Appropriations Committee, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) worked to secure investments for addressing military construction and veteran issues in U.S. territories and freely associated states.

Murkowski, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has jurisdiction over U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

"I have been able to see first-hand key military construction issues in our U.S. territories and pleased to see a focus on addressing those through this funding bill, such as critically important enlisted housing," said Murkowski. "Also, I'm proud that through this bill we focus on access for our veterans who live [on] these islands, who serve at considerable numbers where access to VA healthcare has been limited."

The bill includes the following provisions:

Guam military construction

- $9.8 million for Air Force munitions storage
- $36.1 million for unaccompanied enlisted housing
- $27.9 million for gym and dining facility
- $52.3 million for Navy explosive ordnance storage
- $50 million to begin the construction of a machine gun range
- $22 million for ordnance operations building
- $83.4 million to replace the Anderson Family Housing Phase III

Veterans Affairs

- Murkowski secured report language directing the Government Accountability Office to assess whether service to veterans in various Pacific U.S. territories and Freely Associated States could be more appropriately provided for by foreign medical facilities than VA facilities in Hawaii and Guam.
- Murkowski also secured report language aimed to improve care by requiring the VA to provide Congress with a strategy for addressing the needs of veterans residing in outlying areas and leverage the capabilities of both federal and non-federal partners in the territories.

Murkowski is a member of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, and chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. ***(PR)***

Power interruption on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, June 16, 2018, from 5am to 10am, affecting San Roque and As Matuis.

All water wells in As Matuis will be affected. All lift stations in As Matuis and San Roque will also be affected.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize utility lines and allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to safely replace three 55-foot wooden poles with concrete poles. The project task is part of CUC's ongoing hazard mitigation project that focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 643 have already been made by CUC and its contractor.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(PR)***

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is pleased to announce
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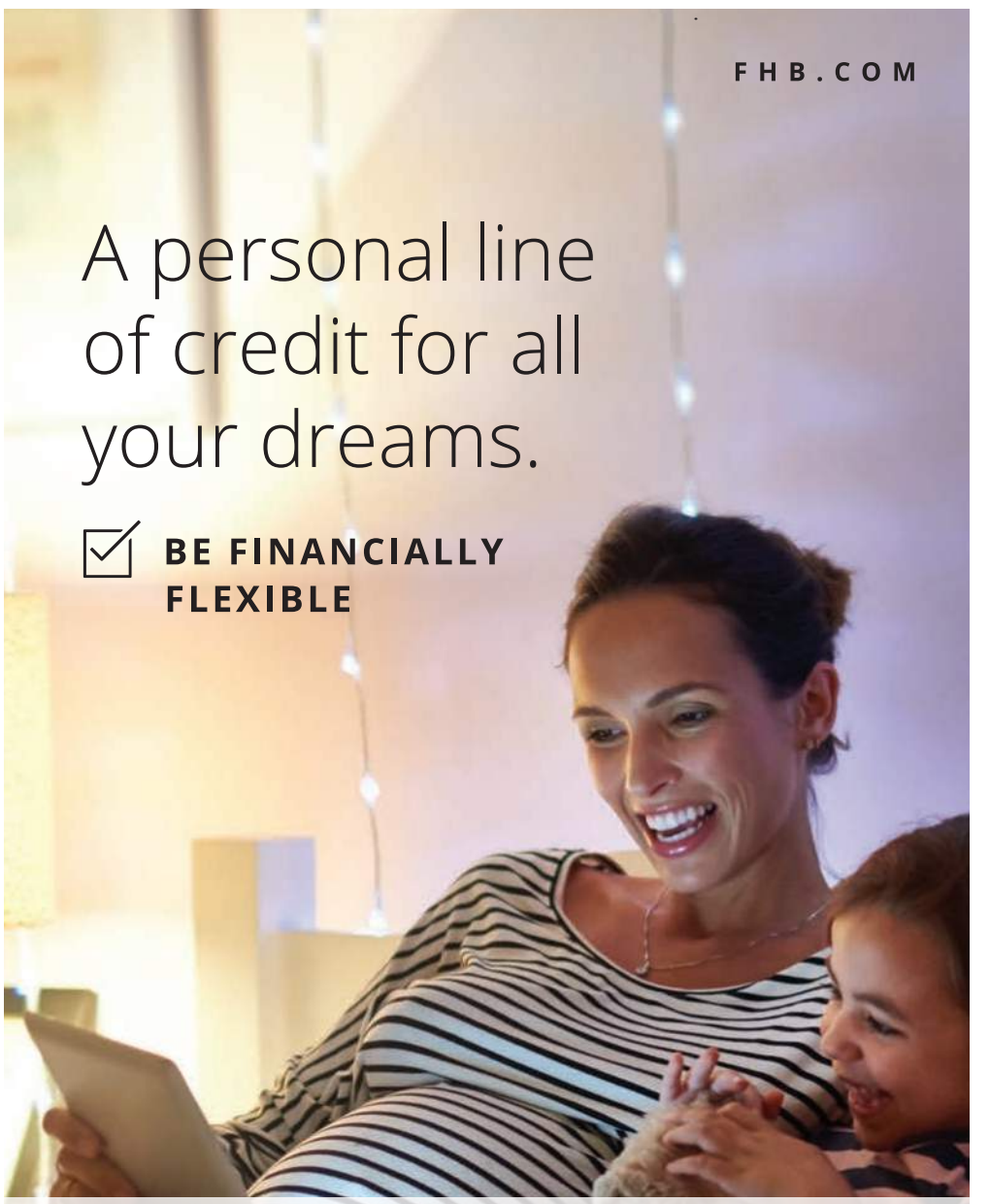
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PH Independence Day Flag-Raising

Dozens of Philippine nationals in the CNMI, including members of the Emon Lodge of the Freemasons association, take part in the Philippine flag-raising during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago raise the Philippine flag during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres, second from the right, poses in her traditional Filipino attire, called *baro't saya*, with members of the Filipino community during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pays his respects during the singing of the Filipino national anthem during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Emon Lodge No. 179 Freemasons poses for a photo with CNMI dignitaries during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago sign the CNMI-Philippine Friendship Month proclamation during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Emon Lodge No. 179 Freemasons bear the Philippine flag during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Emon Lodge No. 179 Freemasons help raise the Philippine flag during the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago cut the Independence Day cake after the 120th Philippine Independence Day Flag-Raising ceremony last Tuesday at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo statement on additional H-2B workers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement on the arrival of 30 H-2B workers for PHR Corp. These workers were admitted under authorities secured by Bordallo in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to provide flexibility to admit H-2B worked to Guam for construction projects on- and off-base directly connected to or associated with the Marine realignment to Guam.

"I am encouraged that H-2B workers are beginning to arrive on Guam under authorities I secured in last year's defense bill. This is exactly what my provision was intended to do to help alleviate our workforce shortage. The arrival of these H-2B workers is positive news, and I appreciate the One Guam effort we are making to resolve Guam's labor challenges. I look forward to more workers coming to Guam to ease the pressure on our construction industry. I am committed to working in Congress to build on this progress and providing a broad solution that will benefit our entire civilian community outside the fence." ***(PR)***

Paulino joins CWA board as Tinian rep

In efforts to strengthen their mission across the Commonwealth, the CNMI Women's Association recently confirmed Jovita Paulino to the board of directors, representing the island of Tinian.

Paulino, who currently serves under the Mayor of Tinian, outlined key priorities regarding women on Tinian to include self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, and mental health needs.

According to CWA president Rose Ada-Hocog, confirming Paulino is a critical step to bridging the communication gap between the island of Saipan and Tinian and pushing for the advancement of women of all ages, ethnicities, races, and social status.

CWA administrator Felicidad T. Ogomoro said that board members must demonstrate a strong sense of commitment to advancing equity and addressing the challenges and barriers CNMI women continue to face.

"CWA is strongly committed to its mission of empowering our women and helping them succeed through the programs and services we provide, which is critical to the strength of our families and our entire Commonwealth," she said.

Dolores R. Drew, who currently serves as a board member, noted that the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office are committed to continue to advocate, guide, and light the way for the continued progress and prosperity of the CNMI.

CWA currently provides education and training opportunities, mentorship, advocacy, and information and referral services in a culturally competent and nurturing way to maximize their potential to positively impact families.

The board of directors is composed of Ada-Hocog, vice president Dolores R. Drew, secretary protem Daisy Demapan, treasurer Julie O. Manglona, and board members Erna O. Ngirchongor, Jacqueline Che, and Paulino.

Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth on April 13, 2011, CWA is governed by a seven-member board and collaborates with public and private organizations to deliver vital social services to the community throughout the CNMI.

The CWA is funded under the Community Services Block Grant, a U.S. sub-grant awarded by the Division of Youth Services.

Any and all women interested in joining the CWA are encouraged to stop by the Garapan Community Center or call 233-9411. ***(PR)***

NMC's Cash for College this Saturday

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop that will happen this Saturday, June 16, 2018, at the NMC As Terlaje campus, Building A.

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and before the end of the workshop at 12pm.

The workshop will also be held on Tinian on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at the NMC Tinian campus from 10am to 2pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming fall semester—a savings of up to $75.

NMC

Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and community members that the next Cash for College workshop is this Saturday, June 16, 2018, in Building A of NMC's As Terlaje campus from 9am to 12pm. For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), Ccopy of 2016 and 2017 1040, copy of 2016 and 2017 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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RECRUITMENT DAY
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Opinion

Hafa Adai
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EDITORIAL

When Trump met Kim

Meeting in Singapore Tuesday, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a feel-good document that outlines lofty ambition but no specifics. It could—emphasis on could—eventually lead to substantive negotiations. It could—emphasis on could—eliminate the threat of nuclear attack against the U.S. by North Korea.

Or it could lead to nothing but the next round of trouble.

That's because Kim's words alone, his signature on a piece of paper, is worth nothing. Just as the promises his father and grandfather made to previous presidents amounted to wasted breath.

Yes, the handshake between Trump and Kim was historic. Seeing the two men face each other was surreal. They smiled and patted each other on the shoulder. No sitting American president had ever met with the leader of isolated, belligerent North Korea.

Whatever comes next in this tense, unstable relationship, the two leaders conducted diplomacy rather than insult-flinging. That's progress. They now know something of each other's style and outlook. Let's call this meeting a surprise success and hope for more. If the two leaders produce the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as promised, you'll see them together again in Oslo.

Reasons for skepticism: North Korea, one of the world's nastiest regimes, follows a cynical playbook. The main purpose of the state is to serve and protect the regime. It does this by keeping the world at bay, and treating its own citizens as virtual prisoners. No American president has been able to bring in North Korea from the cold. Nor has Trump—yet.

To Kim, nuclear weapons offer protection against regime change from without. Ever since the 1950-53 Korean War, through three generations of Kim family leadership, North Korea has existed in a state of perpetual quasi-conflict with the United States and South Korea. Tension levels would rise and fall but never end. As the North pursued a nuclear weapons program, Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush tried cutting deals to coax North Korea out of its dangerous isolation. Those efforts ultimately collapsed because North Korea couldn't be trusted to keep up its end. Even with as many as 2 million North Koreans starving to death in the 1990s, the regime stuck to its nuclear brinkmanship.

President Barack Obama chose not to engage, betting that "strategic patience" eventually would win concessions. He was wrong. The North kept working on its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, escalating the threat against the U.S. Trump dealt with this tinderbox by throwing lit matches at it. He and Kim exchanged insults. The White House hinted about delivering a military "bloody nose" to North Korea to break the stalemate. Scary-sounding stuff.

Yet in a way, Trump was taking a page from the North's tradition of bellicose propaganda. The president, who prides himself on his negotiating skills, likes to play good cop/crazy cop. As unnerving as he might sound threatening North Korea, he'd love to bag the elusive deal to defang Pyongyang, the deal that eluded other presidents.

As for what Kim may be thinking, he's certainly in the strongest bargaining position in his country's history because of the nuclear arsenal. The fact that Trump took the meeting shows how this power relationship has tilted. The

See EDITORIAL on Next Page

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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN
SIR, HOW DID YOU FEEL AFTER YOUR MEETING WITH THE DICTATOR?
ENVIOUS.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This time is different with North Korea. But better?

By MICHAEL SCHUMAN
Bloomberg News

I should have been excited as I watched a historic event unfold in Singapore. The summit meeting of Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un held out hope that the last ugly conflict of the Cold War can be brought to a close, alleviating the threat of nuclear war in Asia and possibly opening up the vicious North Korean dictatorship to the world.

For me, the matter is more personal. I lived in South Korea for several years in the 1990s, and I'm forever connected to the peninsula by bonds of family and friends. Seoul, that emblem of prosperity perched near the Demilitarized Zone, is something of a second home.

But it's hard to be optimistic. After more than two decades following Korean affairs, I remind myself that we've been here before. The Pyongyang regime has broken promises to end its nuclear program. Washington has made its share of missteps, too. And while the Trump-Kim meeting was the first by the U.S. and North Korean leaders, it wasn't the first high-level contact: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Pyongyang for talks with Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, in 2000. Hopes ran high then, too.

So I keep asking myself: Is this time different?

In most ways, it isn't. Trump supporters argue that his approach has been quite unlike that of his predecessors, and that's why the North has come to the table. At its heart, though, Trump's strategy is more or less identical: Offer to trade nukes for economic goodies, and strangle the regime with sanctions until it agrees.

It's not clear, despite Singapore, that this approach worked. The Kims have endured isolation, poverty, even famines, for decades, and aren't easily cowed. There are indications that their economy has improved in recent years, despite sanctions. In 2016, North Korean output may have grown at the fastest pace in 17 years, according to South Korea's central bank.

There is one element that's different: The parties at the table. The U.S. hadn't dealt with Kim Jong Un on the nuclear issue, and while we don't really know what persuaded him to negotiate, we can't assume that he has the same motivations as his father. Some North Korea watchers are convinced the younger Kim truly wants to develop his economy and bring the country in from the cold, and he can't do that without the lifting of sanctions and U.S. support.

Then there's Trump. He's different, too, but not in the way most people think. It's not his "fire and fury" threats and "maximum pressure" campaign that distinguish him from his predecessors. It's his break with Washington's foreign-policy traditions. As we witnessed most obviously at the G-7 summit in Canada, Trump has scant regard for allies, past agreements or international commitments. More, he seems willing to toss into the shredder the foreign-policy guidebook Washington has followed since Truman.

That might make Trump willing to do what no other president in the modern period would in order to get a deal with Kim, and that may open opportunities with Pyongyang the U.S. has never had. At a press briefing Monday evening in Singapore, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wouldn't say whether the U.S. would offer to pull troops out of South Korea – a long-standing North Korean demand – as part of a nuclear deal. Trump, in his post-summit comments Tuesday, acknowledged he wants to bring the troops home, but said it wasn't part of the equation at the moment.

Still, the fact that this is even being discussed is remarkable. No previous president would have considered so great a deviation from Washington's global security policy.

Kim may have sensed that desire to break with past practice, and that alone may have made negotiations worth a shot from his standpoint. Maybe the North Korean leader can extract concessions that other presidents wouldn't have entertained.

In Trump's quest for "wins," he could be too quick to discard allies like South Korea – and in the process, unravel the security order that has preserved American dominance in Asia since the end of World War II. Kim (and his backer, China's President Xi Jinping) would love to push the U.S. out of the Korean peninsula and weaken its standing in East Asia.

That would leave the door wide open for China to march in. Trump, whether through short-sighted politicking, dearth of knowledge or simple lack of interest, could make a deal that might resolve one security problem while creating a potentially bigger one.

We'll see. Handshakes and smiles aside, it's far from clear where the relationship is heading. The joint document signed Tuesday by Trump and Kim is a masterpiece of diplomatic vagueness that appears to leave undone the hard work of reaching a real, verifiable agreement to end North Korea's nuclear program.

For seven decades, Washington has equated its own interests with the preservation of a U.S. global economic and security system. Trump does not. That may be why this time with North Korea is different. But I'm not sure it's a cause for hope.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Poems for Older Americans Month

The month of May has been designated "Older Americans Month" in the CNMI. May is dedicated to the man'amko and adults are encouraged to re-evaluate the meaning of aging this month. Here are some poems I've written on that subject. Now past the age of 67, I've had a little time to practice.

Baby Boomers: Another Day in the Life

We all grow older with every breath
Filling casinos, buffets, hospitals, and spas
Dealing with aging and inevitable death
Replacement knees, hips, 'push em up' girdles and bras
Spending millions on balding and dyeing gray hair
Falling arches, sagging guts, butts, shots of botox
Waking up each morning with new pains everywhere
Specialists give us bad news and a price that shocks
Pricing new models of an electric wheel chair
Trying new fad diets and old vitamin spin
Ignoring our flab and farting everywhere
Rationalizing fat food we eat is no sin
Hoping, praying to cure our cancer and tumors
Another day in the life of baby boomers

Old Friends Forever (OFF)

I was happy with my old buddy
some trails were dry some muddy
I was happy with my sweetheart
even when it was time for us to part
I remember with complete delight
how we would laugh after a stupid fight
and how those loving and friendly smiles
lasted on life's road for miles and miles
our love and friendship grew day and night
on sunny days and under the moon light
from budding plants till frost grew on the vine
sharing love and food finding truth in wine
though we friends and sweethearts all age
together against eternal night we all rage
and every morning glad I can still see
the results of long term friendship for me

Grandparents: A Boomer Sonnet

Do you remember your grandparents, even the in-laws?
Both sides from your biological mother and dad?
Did you have special names for them? 'Opa',
'Mamaw', and 'Papaw'?
Did they always hug and comfort you when you were sad?
Did they favor an older sister or a younger brother?
Were some dead before you were born or soon after?
Did they give you all the same presents or one thing
then another?
When they came by did you know you were in for
laughter?
Are you one now? Do your grand kids live very far away?
Do you enjoy the drive to see them, like to watch
them play?
Are your kids not too happy when for a week you'll stay?
Are your grandkids the smartest and cutest no matter
what others say?
So Gramps, Grams, grumpy Grandpa, and gentle
Grammies
Enjoy your grandkids, sunburned, dirty, or in their jammies

An HR crisis for the USA

By MAX STIER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As Americans, we have only one institution with the resources and the public mandate to address our nation's most vexing problems: the federal government. It is, however, ill-equipped for the task today, operating with a badly broken personnel system that is rapidly reaching a crisis point.

The facts are stark. There is a generation gap in government with only 6 percent of full-time federal career employees under the age of 30. The hiring process is slow and arcane: It takes twice as long to hire a government worker (106 days) than a private-sector employee. In addition, the pay structure is out of sync with the private sector for critical jobs, good work is infrequently recognized and poor employee performance often goes unaddressed.

These conditions have festered through multiple presidencies, and one Congress after another has turned a blind eye to the problems. That already bad situation has been exacerbated by President Trump's attacks on certain agencies, turnover in Cabinet posts and the delay in appointments to numerous critical positions. The Trump administration also has proposed weakening civil service protections, freezing salaries for federal workers and slashing retirement programs—all while devaluing experienced civil servants to such a degree that there's been an exodus of career professionals.

The government compensation system, which dates back to 1949, remains disconnected from the broader labor market, failing to distinguish between the skills required and market demand for different occupations. On average, the most skilled—those with a professional degree or doctorate—earn far less than their private-sector counterparts. For example, the federal system caps salaries for chief information officers at $189,000; they can earn many multiples of that in the private sector.

Such disparities make it extremely difficult to attract or retain people for crucial federal jobs. In a 2017 government-wide survey, barely 4 in 10 employees said their work unit could recruit people with the right skills. In information technology—those who make sure computer networks function and are protected from hackers—there are five times as many people over 60 as those under 30.

The leadership ranks of civil service—those who figure out how to implement nearly all of the government's policies and programs—are in urgent need of help. There is inadequate training and development for managers, and little accountability for employee performance and outcomes. There is also a profound gap

By By MAX STIER
Los Angeles Times

Max Stier is the president and chief executive officer of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service..

in trust between employees and their supervisors. The 2017 survey of federal employees found that only about 60 percent believe they can speak up about a violation of law or ethics without fear of retaliation; in the private sector that number is over 75 percent.

Despite many obstacles to good performance, most federal employees are dedicated and do extraordinary work on behalf of the public. But the current personnel system is an unacceptable impediment. The president, agency leaders and Congress must work to reform it. This will require building a bipartisan consensus in support of high-performing government, instead of fostering division or treating the workforce as the adversary.

A starting point should be the overhaul of the hiring process to better identify the most qualified candidates and allow for quicker decisions. Current hiring standards emphasize experience over potential, which is a disaster when it comes to recruiting young people out of college. The government should follow the lead of top private-sector organizations: Use internships to test young talent and make job offers to those who excel.

Rather than pursuing rule changes to fire federal employees faster, the president and Congress should be doing more so federal workers get better management. Separate promotion tracks should be created for those with technical expertise and those with potential to be great managers.

A "passport" system should be created to make it easier for skilled individuals who leave federal service to return at a higher-level job they qualify for because of private-sector experience. Implementing public-private talent exchanges would bring expertise and fresh ideas to government too. The pay structure also must become more market-sensitive for critical occupations.

These mundane "good management" fixes don't often draw headlines, but they are fundamental to whether we will have a government ready to address our nation's challenges. Whether one favors a bigger or smaller government, it is in everyone's interest that it does whatever it is doing well.

EDITORIAL

From Page 10

U.S. president said he'd hold off on war games with South Korea as the two sides negotiate, so he's betting on a season of detente.

If the positive approach lasts, both men have much to gain. Kim could trade his nuclear program for peace guarantees, economic aid and diplomatic recognition, coaxing North Korea from its cave. Trump would be triumphant, not just in his own mind, but in everyone's.

(c)2018 *Chicago Tribune*

At summit with Kim Jong Un, Trump gave much and got little

Let's begin with the good news. Tuesday's Singapore summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jung Un could have been a disaster, and it wasn't. What's more, there remains the hope—slender, but real—that the conversation and resulting joint statement by the two leaders could be a springboard to future diplomacy.

If that happens, and if the diplomacy grows to include measurable commitments to change by North Korea, so long propped up by propaganda and prison camps, then Tuesday's summit could become the breakthrough moment Trump has declared it to be.

But aspirations are flimsy material upon which to lean, but for now high hopes are all we have been left with. In his eagerness to make history, the president conceded much. What we have to show for it is exceedingly small, at least so far. Certainly, North Korea has made no firm commitments.

Kim and Trump did agree Tuesday to keep their subordinates talking, and to work together to return the remains of POWs or MIA soldiers from the Korean War. Kim has pledged to continue working for the "total de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula"—a welcome goal, but one still shrouded in mystery.

In return for these vague promises, Trump has gave on a lot.

To begin with, in agreeing to meet personally with Kim at all, Trump elevated Kim's status enormously. For weeks, the world has seen Kim engage in a kind of high-profile shuttle diplomacy between top leaders of China, Russia and South Korea. His elevated status is a direct benefit of Trump's decision to meet with him on equal diplomatic footing.

That imbalance continued on Tuesday. To the shock of the Pentagon and our allies in Seoul, Trump said he promised Kim that the United States would end joint military exercises with South Korea. He explained that they're too expensive anyway, and beside, they are quite provocative to North Korea.

Trump said he'd like to bring home America's troops altogether, but that it's too soon to discuss that. He singled out Kim for high praise, defending him as "very talented" and noted that perhaps "only 1 in 100,000 people" on the planet could have succeeded as he has.

Against all this talk, and all these concessions, there was no mention of human rights. No mention of the gulags, the propaganda, the persecution millions of his people live under. To praise Kim's survival skills is strange talk from an American president, given that he did so without noting Kim inherited his position as absolute monarch of a country ruled by fear, murder and constant surveillance. He has continued this, murdering rivals and family members in horrific ways, and keeping a population of millions in abject thralldom.

As talks continue, we can only hope that Trump realizes that any meaningful peace will have to address the human rights outrages that prop up his new negotiating partner.

(c)2018 *The Dallas Morning News*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼78°

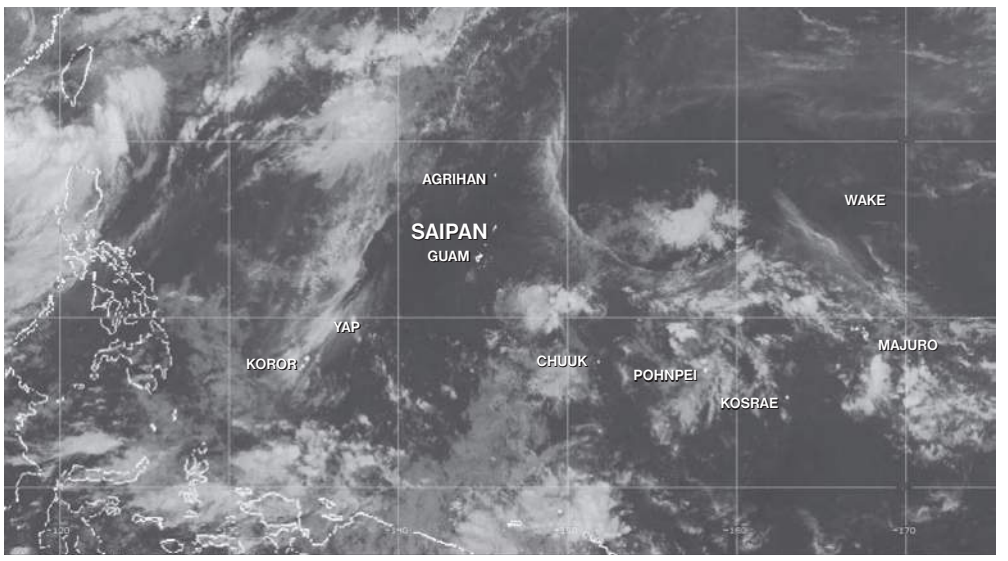
FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:08 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation could be found to the southeast of Guam. Models keep the circulation weak and they actually show it degrading into a surface trough. This trough will pass west of the Marianas Thursday through Friday. Expect only isolated showers today and tonight before the trough gets too close. This will change to scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Thursday and Thursday night as the trough passes close to the local area. Isolated showers and thunderstorms will prevail across the Marianas Friday in the wake of the trough. Drier weather is expected the during the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°
Hong Kong	Rain	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
New York	Sunny	84° / 62°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°
Busan	Windy	73° / 63°
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 61°
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 63°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 61°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 64°

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:47 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
6:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
2:13 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.65
9:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.08

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:56 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	6:58 AM	8:17 PM	-
Saturday	8:01 AM	9:17 PM	-
Sunday	9:05 AM	10:13 PM	-
Monday	10:07 AM	11:05 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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CHAINSAW GAS POULAN
$169.95

BBQ PRO B BARREL GRILL
$89.95

CRAFTSMAN 260 PCS MECHANICS TOOLS
$219.95

COLEMAN 48QT COOLER
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$18.95
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Business

Toyota investing $1 billion in ride-hailing company Grab

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp. is investing $1 billion in Grab, the leading ride-hailing company in Southeast Asia, the company said Wednesday.

Toyota said it reached a deal with Grab Holdings to strengthen the existing partnership to grow in mobility services in the region.

A Toyota executive will be appointed to Grab's board and another Toyota official is being tapped to be an executive officer at Grab, the company said.

Grab, which is similar to Uber in the U.S., is in eight nations in the region, including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

Uber's Southeast Asian operations were acquired by Grab earlier this year. Uber retained a 27.5 percent stake in the new merged entity.

Toyota was initially cautious about ride-sharing and autonomous-driving technology.

In recent years, the maker of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models has been aggressively playing catch-up, signing on partners around the world.

Grab, based in Singapore, has recently attracted investments from SoftBank, a Japanese technology and telecommunications company, and Didi Chuxing, a Chinese ride-sharing and autonomous driving company.

In this March 26, 2018, file photo, passengers wait for Grab car outside a shopping man in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. AP

In Japan, where Uber has been trying to grow, ride-sharing is facing resistance from the nation's powerful networking of cab companies, especially in urban areas like Tokyo. Toyota supplies the bulk of the vehicles used by such cab companies.

Sen. Mitch McConnell pushes hemp legalization in farm bill

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—Declaring he has "won the argument" on hemp, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that the Senate is on track for a vote to legalize the crop that comes from the same plant that produces marijuana.

The Senate Agriculture Committee is scheduled to consider the farm bill Wednesday. It will include a provision to remove hemp from a list of Schedule I controlled substances, making it legal for farmers to grow and sell the crop. Although far from becoming law, the step is noted progress for an idea that has faced staunch opposition among conservative lawmakers.

"We've won the argument that this is not about marijuana," McConnell said about hemp. "Now we just need to pass the law. And I'm in a uniquely well-situated position to make that happen."

The committee is scheduled to meet one day after McConnell set a record by becoming the longest-serving GOP leader in the Senate's history, surpassing former Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas. He says the leadership role allows for small, rural Kentucky to "punch above its weight" when competing against states like New York and California that have large congressional delegations.

"I'm going to run again for leader in November and I'm going to run again for Senate in 2020," McConnell said. "I'm grateful to have had the confidence of my colleagues over the years."

Kentucky farmers have been growing hemp legally since 2014 as part of a federal pilot program, but they've still had some trouble. In the program's first year, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized an initial shipment of hemp seeds to Kentucky. The state had to go to court to get them released.

Although the fledgling hemp and marijuana industries grew during the relaxed policies of former President Barack Obama's administration, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been less welcoming of the cannabis plant. But McConnell says he has spoken with Sessions about hemp, saying he doesn't expect him to embrace it but "he certainly indicated he is not going to oppose us."

Hemp was once one of Kentucky's biggest crops. Ryan Quarles, the state's Republican agriculture commissioner, says his grandfather grew hemp during World War II because "the Navy needed rope." The crop disappeared after the cannabis plant was banned. Kentucky farmers moved on to tobacco, only to see it falter after 2004 when a federal price support program ended.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US consumer prices up 0.2 pct. in May, 2.8 pct. annually

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in May, with surging gasoline costs driving much of the increase. The Labor Department said Thursday that the consumer price index climbed 2.8 percent last month from a year earlier, putting inflation on its fastest annual pace since February 2012. But core prices—which exclude the volatile food and energy categories—have risen a milder 2.2 percent over the past 12 months. Inflation remains relatively tame, although it has picked up sharply this year, in large part due to more expensive oil. Gasoline prices climbed 1.7 percent in May and jumped 21.8 percent from a year ago. Americans are also paying more for housing: Shelter costs have risen 3.5 percent in the past year. And transportation services, which include auto repair and airfare, have increased 3.8 percent.

Tesla cuts 9 pct. of workforce in bid to post a profit

DETROIT (AP)—Electric car maker Tesla Inc. is laying off about 3,600 workers mainly from its salaried ranks as it slashes costs in an effort to deliver on CEO Elon Musk's promise to turn a profit in the second half of the year. In an email to workers on Tuesday, Musk said the cuts amount to about 9 percent of the company's workforce of 40,000. Tesla would not say how much money the layoffs would save, but said no factory workers would be affected as the company continues to ramp up production of its lower-priced Model 3 compact car. The move is part of an organizational restructuring that Musk announced earlier in the year.

Seattle leaders halt tax on companies like Amazon

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle leaders on Tuesday repealed a tax on large companies such as Amazon and Starbucks after a backlash from businesses, a stark reversal from a month ago when the City Council unanimously approved the effort to combat a growing homelessness crisis. A divided crowd chanted, jeered and booed at the council meeting, drowning out the leaders as they cast a 7-2 vote. People shouted, "Stop the repeal," as others unfurled a large red banner that read, "Tax Amazon." An opposing group held "No tax on jobs" signs. The vote showed Amazon's ability to aggressively push back on government taxes, especially in its affluent hometown where it's the largest employer with more than 45,000 workers and where some have criticized it for helping cultivate a widening income gap that is pricing lower-income employees out of housing.

Report: Amazon destroys large amount of new, returned goods

BERLIN (AP)—German public broadcaster ZDF is reporting that online retailer Amazon destroys a large amount of new and returned goods even though they are in working order. In a program that aired Tuesday, ZDF quoted current and former Amazon employees saying the products included electronics, appliances and clothing. ZDF cited one unnamed Amazon worker saying she oversees the destruction of goods worth more than 23,000 euros ($27,000) each day. Germany's deputy environment minister, Jochen Flasbarth, told ZDF the alleged practice was "a huge scandal."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,320.73	2,786.85	7,703.79
-1.58	+4.85	+43.87
-0.01%	+0.17%	+0.57%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.32	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	62.98
British Pound	0.7482	Indian Rupee	67.57	Singapore Dollar	1.34
Canadian Dollar	1.30	Japanese Yen	110.60	South Korean Won	1083.12
Chinese Yuan	6.39	Malaysian Ringgit	3.99	Swiss Franc	0.99
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.43	Taiwan Dollar	29.87
		Philippine Peso	53.09	Thailand Baht	32.10

Nation

Iran deal comparisons cloud Trump's North Korea summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's triumphant assertions about the success of the unprecedented Singapore summit are being met with skepticism and outright derision from critics seizing on the contradiction between his withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and his willingness to accept vague pledges from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

White House officials have repeatedly stressed that this week's meeting in Singapore is the beginning, not the end, of a process that Trump's team argues could have only been jump-started with the face-to-face meeting. The Singapore summit set out broad goals to be met in the coming months while the Iran deal, signed by President Barack Obama in 2015 and approved by seven nations, was an imperfect end to 18 months of negotiations, they say. Criticism that Tuesday's commitment does not include specifics on denuclearization and verification is too early, they argue.

"While I am glad the president and Kim Jong Un were able to meet, it is difficult to determine what of concrete nature has occurred," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said he wanted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who will lead the follow-on negotiations, to explain details of what the administration has in mind.

In this June 12, 2018, file photo, a newspaper vendor holds up a front page photo of the meeting in Singapore between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at a newsstand in Beijing, China. AP

The top Democrat on that panel, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, who also opposed the Iran deal, took issue with Trump's zeal as well as his announcement of the suspension of U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

"In exchange for selfies in Singapore, we have undermined our maximum pressure policy and sanctions," Menendez said.

For Iran deal proponents, though, the Singapore summit was evidence of Trump's lack of preparedness and poor negotiating skills. Iran deal opponents, meanwhile, seemed willing to wait and see.

How do you count deaths from a hurricane?

NEW YORK (AP)—How many people died in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria?

It's a question that has been debated since the powerful storm slammed into the island and devastated the U.S. territory last year. It's also raised questions about how officials go about the challenging task of counting deaths and deciding what criteria to use.

Someone who is killed by a storm-toppled tree, yes. But someone electrocuted by downed power lines many days later?

No government agency has a good handle on counting disaster deaths, said George Haddow, a former official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency who teaches disaster operations at Tulane University in New Orleans.

"Everybody counts it differently," Haddow said.

Two bills were introduced in Congress this week in an attempt to establish a new standard for counting deaths after a natural disaster.

"Death tolls are important. They influence public perception about the scope of a disaster and often determine what federal resources are allocated for response," said U.S. Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez, D-NY, in a statement. She introduced the House version of the bill.

Some basics about counting disaster deaths and why it's an issue now:

HOW ARE HURRICANE-RELATED DEATHS COUNTED?

Disaster deaths tend to be placed in two categories, "direct" and "indirect." For a hurricane, direct deaths include people who drown in a storm surge or flooding, are hit by flying debris or crushed in a wind-toppled building. Indirect deaths include heart attacks, house fires, electrocutions from downed power lines, car accidents and others fatalities that are less clearly tied to the elements.

The National Hurricane Center, when it gives hurricane tallies, only reports direct deaths. But some experts disagree with that. "If you're looking at people who died from the fact that their dialysis equipment didn't work or their respirators didn't work because of power failures, and they wouldn't have died otherwise, I think those deaths could—and should—be counted," said Kathleen Tierney, former director of the University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Center.

WHERE DO DEATH REPORTS COME FROM?

Death certificates are the primary source of official death statistics in the United States, but those can take time and don't always include the circumstances of a death. Reports from police and emergency managers can also count as official information. To try to get a broader picture, some researchers have surveyed storm survivors, funeral home directors, and hospitals or other health care facilities. "Different methodologies are going to yield different numbers," said Tierney.

WHAT HAPPENED IN PUERTO RICO?

Hurricane Maria hit in September 2017 and caused extensive damage, leaving the entire island of 3.3 million people without power. The official death toll stands at 64 although authorities believe more died. In December, Puerto Rico's governor ordered a review, and in February he announced a team at George Washington University would lead the review and provide an estimated range of deaths. That estimate is still pending.

A judge last week ordered Puerto Rico to release more information, including all death certificates issued after the hurricane. "People still don't have a clear picture as to how many lives were lost due to a lack of food, medicine, health services or simply because of an ineffective response to an emergency," wrote Judge Lauracelis Roques.

ARE THERE OTHER ESTIMATES?

Since the storm, a number of academic researchers and news organizations have made their own attempts to estimate the toll. Doing an exact count is all but impossible. Instead, they tried to estimate how many deaths occurred beyond what is usually seen in the same time period in the past. They believe that these "excess deaths" reflect direct and indirect hurricane-related deaths.

Several offered an estimate of around 1,000 more deaths than usual in the months after the storm, and a Harvard study published last month suggested the number could be as high as 4,600 or more.

Last week, Puerto Rico's Health Department offered its own estimate: It said there were 1,397 more deaths from September to December in 2017 than in the same period in 2016. Tuesday, authorities released the death totals for 2013-2017. Taking into account the newly released data, there were 1,427 more deaths than the average for the same four-month period in the previous four years.

Trump contradicts US military stance on Korea war games

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's abrupt announcement that he will suspend U.S. military drills in South Korea appeared to catch the Pentagon and the Seoul government flat-footed, and it contradicted a pillar of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' campaign to make U.S. troops more combat-ready.

During a news conference following his summit Tuesday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Trump pushed his unconventional approach even further by calling annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises "provocative." He also said he'd like to remove all 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South, although he made clear this was an option for the future, not a part of current negotiations.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 war and has used them in a variety of large-scale drills designed to sharpen skills and test troops' ability to operate effectively with their South Korean partners.

The next scheduled major exercise, known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian and involving tens of thousands of troops, normally is held in August.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-wife of man who killed 6 in Arizona relieved he's dead

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Connie Jones' life wasn't routine. She switched up her commute to work, went to different grocery stores, constantly looked over her shoulder, and took firearms training and defensive driving to protect herself and her son from an ex-husband she said was a maniac. Authorities have said that man, Dwight Lamon Jones, is responsible for the recent deaths of six people in the Phoenix area, some of whom had links to the Jones' divorce. Connie Jones said she always feared she'd be the one killed and said Tuesday she is grateful to be alive. "I felt that I had a personal terrorist," she said. "I had someone who was specifically targeting me, someone who had time and nothing else to do but think about how to hurt me. His death, I think, is the best thing to come out of this ordeal."

New wildfire erupts near Colorado ski resorts, houses

DENVER (AP)—A wildfire erupted Tuesday in an area of Colorado known for its ski resorts, forcing the evacuation of more than 1,300 homes and marking the latest in a series of blazes that have ignited in the drought-stricken U.S. West. The fire in central Colorado had burned only about 100 acres but was dangerously close to two densely populated housing developments near the town of Silverthorne, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) west of Denver. U.S. Forest Service spokesman Adam Bianchi said the Buffalo Fire had come to within about 200 yards (183 meters) of a subdivision that includes condos, apartments and pricey homes. The closest ski resort to the fire, Keystone, is about 8 miles (12.8 kilometers) away and across a large reservoir.About 50 firefighters were battling the blaze initially, but more were on the way, along with heavy air tankers and helicopters.

Police chief: DC officers shoot, kill man with gun

WASHINGTON (AP)— Authorities say police in Washington shot and killed a man who produced a handgun in an alley. Metropolitan Police Chief Peter Newsham tells news outlets that three officers on routine patrol in southeast Washington encountered a group of men Tuesday night. Newsham says multiple shots were fired after the man pulled out the gun, but it's unclear if the suspect fired his weapon. It's unclear how many of the officers fired their weapons. None of the officers were injured. Newsham says no one is in custody and police are not looking for any suspects. He says multiple witnesses are cooperating with police, who are gathering evidence. The deceased man has not been identified.

Prosecutor: Mississippi man to plead guilty in nuns' deaths

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi prosecutor said Tuesday that a man charged with killing two nuns in 2016 will plead guilty as part of an agreement that removes the possibility of the death penalty. District Attorney Akillie Malone-Oliver told The Associated Press she spoke with the victims' families before agreeing that Rodney Earl Sanders of Kosciusko, Mississippi, could plead guilty to capital murder. She said the agreement calls for him to be sentenced to life without parole. Malone-Oliver said the decision takes into consideration that the two women who were killed, Sisters Margaret Held and Paula Merrill, opposed the death penalty.

Asia

Trump sees 'new future' for N. Korea, but path unclear

SINGAPORE (AP)—President Donald Trump wrapped up his five-hour nuclear summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with surprisingly warm words and hope for "a bright new future" for Kim's isolated and impoverished nation. Yet he immediately faced pointed questions at home about whether he got little and gave away much in his push to make a deal with the young autocrat—including an agreement to halt U.S. military exercises with South Korea.

Meeting with staged ceremony on a Singapore island, Trump and Kim signed a joint statement Tuesday agreeing to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, although the timeline and tactics were left unclear. Trump later promised to end "war games," with ally South Korea, a concession to Kim that appeared to catch the Pentagon and Seoul government off guard and sowed confusion among Trump's Republican supporters in Washington.

The head-scratching was a fitting end for a meeting marked by unpredictability. The face to face was unthinkable just months earlier as the two leaders traded insults and nuclear threats. In agreeing to the summit, Trump risked granting Kim his long-sought recognition on the world stage in hopes of ending the North's nuclear program.

While progress on the nuclear question was murky, the leaders spent the public portions of their five hours together expressing optimism and making a show of their new relationship. Trump declared he and Kim had developed "a very special bond." He gave Kim a glimpse of the presidential limousine. Kim, for his part, said the leaders had "decided to leave the past behind" and promised, "The world will see a major change."

Soon, Kim was on a plane headed home, while a clearly ebullient Trump held forth for more than an hour before the press on what he styled as a historic achievement to avert the prospect of nuclear war. Before leaving himself, Trump tossed out pronouncements on U.S. alliances, human rights and the nature of the accord that he and Kim had signed.

The details of how and when the North would denuclearize appear yet to be determined, as are the nature of the unspecified "protections" Trump is pledging to Kim and his government.

As Trump acknowledged that denuclearization would not be accomplished overnight, the North suggested Wednesday that Trump had moved away from his demand for complete denuclearization before U.S. sanctions on the long-isolated country are removed.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency said Wednesday the two leaders "shared recognition to the effect that it is important to abide by the principle of step-by-step and simultaneous action in achieving peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

The White House did not immediately respond to the North Korean characterization of the deal.

The Singapore accord largely amounts to an agreement to continue discussions, echoing previous public statements and commitments. It does not, for instance, include an agreement to take steps toward ending the technical state of warfare between the U.S. and North Korea.

HECKLERS UNITE! AP

Protesters are roughed up by plainclothes police after heckling Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte at the 120th Philippine Independence Day celebration at the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine at Kawit, Cavite province south of Manila, Philippines Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Duterte's speech was marred by protesters who heckled him with shouts of "traitor!" and "Oust Duterte!"

Saudi-led forces begin assault on Yemen port city of Hodeida

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A Saudi-led coalition backing Yemen's exiled government began an assault Wednesday morning on Yemen's port city of Hodeida, a crucial battle in the 3-year-old conflict that aid agency warned could push the Arab world's poorest country into further chaos.

Iranian-aligned Shiite rebels known as Houthis and their allies for years have held the Red Sea port, crucial to food supplies in a nation on the brink of famine after years of war. The battle for Hodeida, if the Houthis don't withdraw, also may mark the first major street-to-street urban fighting for the Saudi-led coalition, which can be deadly for both combatants and civilians alike.

Before dawn Wednesday, convoys of vehicles appeared to be heading toward the rebel-held city on the Red Sea, according to videos posted on social media. The sound of heavy, sustained gunfire clearly could be heard in the background.

Saudi-owned satellite news channels and later state media announced the battle had begun, citing military sources. Houthi media did not immediately report the attack.

Yemen's exiled government "has exhausted all peaceful and political means to remove the Houthi militia from the port of Hodeida," it said in a statement. "Liberation of the port of Hodeida is a milestone in our struggle to regain Yemen from the militias."

Forces loyal to Yemen's exiled government and irregular fighters led by Emirati troops had neared Hodeida in recent days. The port is some 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Sanaa, Yemen's capital held by Shiite rebels known as Houthis.

Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash earlier told French newspaper Le Figaro the deadline for a withdrawal from Hodeida by the Houthis expired early Wednesday morning.

The United Nations and other aid groups already had pulled their international staff from Hodeida ahead of the rumored assault.

Over 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen's civil war. The Saudi-led coalition has been criticized for its airstrikes killing civilians. Meanwhile, the U.N. and Western nations say Iran has supplied the Houthis with weapons from assault rifles up to the ballistic missiles they have fired deep into Saudi Arabia, including at the capital, Riyadh.

Before the war, over 70 percent of Yemen's food and fuel imports came through Hodeida, accounting for over 40 percent of the nation's customs income. The port remains crucial for incoming aid, food and medicine for a nation driven to the brink of famine by the conflict and a Saudi-led blockade.

The U.N. says some 600,000 people live in and around Hodeida, and "as many as 250,000 people may lose everything— even their lives" in the assault.

North Korea lauds, and basks in, Kim's summit performance

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—The series of photos on the front page of the ruling workers' party newspaper showed something North Koreans never would have imagined just months ago—their leader Kim Jong Un warmly shaking hands with President Donald Trump.

The priority treatment of what even Pyongyang is calling the "historic" meeting between Kim and Trump in Singapore underscores just how much of a propaganda coup the North saw in Tuesday's unprecedented summit.

Dubbing it the start of a new relationship between their countries, which are still technically at war, Pyongyang's first reports Wednesday stressed to the North Korean people that Trump agreed at Kim's demand to halt joint military exercises with South Korea as long as talks toward easing tensions continue and suggested that Trump also said he would lift sanctions as negations progressed.

"President Trump appreciated that an atmosphere of peace and stability was created on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, although distressed with the extreme danger of armed clash only a few months ago, thanks to the proactive peace-loving measures taken by the respected Supreme Leader from the outset of this year," said a summary of the leaders' summit by the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The summit capped a swift and astonishing turn of events that began on New Year's Day with a pledge by Kim to reach out to the world now that his nuclear forces have been completed. His focus on diplomacy, including earlier meetings with the leaders of China and South Korea, is a sharp contrast with his rapid-fire testing of long-range missiles and the fiery exchanges of threats and insults last year that created real fears of a war on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim has framed the switch as a natural next step now that he has what he stresses is a credible and viable nuclear arsenal capable of keeping the U.S. at bay. The framing that he went into the summit as an equal and from a position of strength is crucial within North Korea, after enduring years of tough sanctions while it pursued its nuclear ambitions.

Kim's vows to denuclearize were reported by state media Wednesday within that context—that Pyongyang would respond to easing of what it sees as the U.S. hostile policy against it with commensurate but gradual moves toward "the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

"Kim Jong Un and Trump had the shared recognition to the effect that it is important to abide by the principle of step-by-step and simultaneous action in achieving peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," KCNA reported.

That doesn't seem to pin the North down to the concrete and unilateral measures Trump said he would demand going into the talks and it remains to be seen what significant changes could occur now that they seem to be moving toward more peaceful relations. Both sides promised to push the process forward quickly, and Trump and Kim exchanged invitations to each other to visit their nations' capitals.

Interestingly, the North made no secret of China's behind-the-scenes presence at the summit. A flurry of media coverage the day Kim arrived in Singapore showed him waving from the door of the specially chartered Air China flight that brought him from Pyongyang.

That is another key to what lies ahead.

Kim's biggest task in the months ahead will most likely be to try to push China, his country's key trading partner, to lift its sanctions and to entice South Korea to start once again offering crucial investment in joint ventures and infrastructure projects.

World

Trump-Kim talks inspire glee, cautious optimism, skepticism

BERLIN (AP)—While South Koreans cheered with hope and China saw an opening to discuss lifting sanctions on North Korea, some countries in Europe and the Mideast cautioned Tuesday that it was premature to judge U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's summit a success.

Many have applauded the recent months of denuclearization diplomacy between North Korea and the U.S. after a year of mounting tension, threats and name-calling. Hopes for peace on the long-divided Korean Peninsula, however, remained tempered by the many failed attempts in the past.

"The United States and North Korea have been in a state of antagonism for more than half a century," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. "Today, that the two countries' highest leaders can sit together and have equal talks, has important and positive meaning, and is creating a new history."

At a train station in Seoul, the South Korean capital, people cheered and applauded as televisions screens broadcast the Trump-Kim handshake live.

"I really, really hope for a good outcome," Yoon Ji, a professor at Sungshin University in Seoul, said. "I am hoping for denuclearization and a peace agreement and also for North Korea's economy to open up."

Leaders in Europe also responded positively to seeing Trump and Kim sit down together, but welcomed the development with wait-and-see skepticism.

"We know that crisis management and international policy are a marathon," Andrea Nahles, the leader of Germany's Social Democrats, said. "To be honest, I can't judge how far what was agreed today will translate into reality."

Trump's unilateral decision last month to pull out of the landmark deal to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons has left the other nations involved scrambling to preserve the pact.

With that as a backdrop, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France that the U.S.-North Korea summit proved that diplomacy was the right path to follow.

"The diplomatic track is often challenging, is often the most difficult one to be followed, but it is the rewarding one, and needs to be sustained over time," Mogherini said. "It was the same track that the international community and the European Union followed for over a decade with Iran."

In a printed statement, she mentioned neither Trump nor Kim by name, but thanked South Korean President Moon Jae-in for his leadership in creating the "positive developments in inter-Korean relations" for the summit to build upon.

For his part, Moon said he "could hardly sleep" in anticipation of the meeting and expressed hope for "complete denuclearization and peace."

Iran, on the other hand, noted that not only had Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, but irritated Group of Seven leaders by agreeing to sign their closing summit declaration, then tweeting while on his way to Singapore that he had changed his mind.

"We are facing a man who revokes his signature while abroad," Iranian government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

Russia, another backer of the Iran nuclear deal, also was skeptical.

"Trump's words that the process of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula will start 'very, very soon' is more of a wish than a fact," Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the upper house of Russia's parliament, wrote on his Facebook page.

"The role of the international community is important here. We must take the two leaders at their word and push them further," Kosachev wrote.

Still, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz tweeted that the meeting was "grounds for hope" for disarmament and peace on the Korean Peninsula "even if there's a long path ahead."

Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen called the summit "historic," though added that Pyongyang has failed to live up to previous disarmament deals.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that United Nations sanctions against North Korea could be suspended or lifted in accordance with the North's actions.

"We believe the Security Council should make efforts to support the diplomatic efforts at the present time," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Paris hostages freed, suspect arrested after 4 hours

PARIS (AP)—A four-hour hostage standoff in central Paris ended with police moving in, arresting the armed suspect and freeing the people held in a ground-floor office, France's interior minister announced late Tuesday. "All the hostages are safe and sound," Gerard Collomb said in a brief statement. At least two people had been held. There was no indication of an extremist motive, police said. The Paris prosecutor's office detained the suspect, a 26-year-old man born in Morocco, a judicial official said. It was not immediately clear if he had French nationality.

Sweden charges man at center of Nobel scandal

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The man at the center of a sex-abuse and financial crimes scandal that is tarnishing the academy which awards the Nobel Prize in Literature, was Tuesday charged with two counts of rape of a woman in 2011. Swedish prosecutor Christina Voigt said the evidence "is robust and sufficient for prosecution." Jean-Claude Arnault, a well-known figure in Sweden who ran a cultural center, is married to poet and member of the Swedish Academy, Katarina Frostenson. He has denied this and other sex abuse allegations. In April, the Swedish Academy said an internal investigation into sexual misconduct allegations found that "unacceptable behavior in the form of unwanted intimacy" has taken place within the ranks of the prestigious institution.

Report describes Dubai real estate as money-laundering haven

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—War profiteers, terror financiers and drug traffickers sanctioned by the U.S. in recent years have used Dubai's real-estate market as a haven for their assets, a new report released Tuesday alleges. The report by the Washington-based Center for Advanced Defense Studies, relying on leaked property data from the city-state, offers evidence to support the long-whispered rumors about Dubai's real-estate boom. It identifies some $100 million in suspicious purchases of apartments and villas across the city of skyscrapers in the United Arab Emirates, where foreign ownership fuels construction that now outpaces local demand. The government-run Dubai Media Office said it could not comment on the report.

Israel: Social media monitoring nabs would-be attackers

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli authorities have foiled over 200 Palestinian attacks by monitoring social media and sifting through vast amounts of data to identify prospective assailants ahead of time, according to Israel's public security minister. These pre-emptive actions put Israel at the forefront of an increasingly popular—and controversial—trend used by intelligence and law enforcement agencies around the world that use big data technology to track would-be criminals. While the technology appears to be effective, its tactics drew angry Palestinian condemnation and have raised questions about civil liberties. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, who oversees the national police force, said Israel's use of algorithms and other technology has been an important factor in lowering the number of knife and shooting attacks in Israel in recent years. He planned on sharing Israel's knowledge with counterparts at an international security conference he is hosting that begins Tuesday.

Puerto Rico issues new data on Hurricane Maria deaths

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Eight days after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Efrain Perez felt a pain in his chest.

Doctors near his small town sent him to Puerto Rico's main hospital for emergency surgery for an aortic aneurysm. But when the ambulance pulled into the parking lot in the capital, San Juan, after a more than two-hour drive, a doctor ran out to stop it.

"He said, 'Don't bring him in here, I can't care for him. I don't have power. I don't have water. I don't have an anesthesiologist,'" Perez's daughter, Nerybelle, recalled.

The 95-year-old Perez died as the ambulance drove him back to southwestern Puerto Rico but he is not included in the island's official hurricane death toll of 64 people, a figure at the center of a growing legal and political fight over the response to the Category 4 storm that hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, 2017.

Facing at least three lawsuits demanding more data on the death toll, Puerto Rico's government released new information on Tuesday that added detail to the growing consensus that hundreds or even thousands of people died as an indirect result of the storm.

According to the new data, there were 1,427 more deaths from September to December 2017 than the average for the same time period over the previous four years. Additionally, September and October had the highest number of deaths of any months since at least 2013. But the statistics don't indicate whether the storm and its aftermath contributed to the additional deaths.

The Puerto Rican government says it believes more than 64 people died as a result of the storm but it will not raise its official toll until George Washington University completes a study of the data being carried out on behalf of the U.S. territory.

AP

Nerybelle Perez holds several pictures of her father, World War II veteran Efrain Perez, who died inside an ambulance after being turned away from the largest public hospital when it had no electricity or water, days after Hurricane Maria passed, in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Good Housekeeping

Accommodating your outdoor electrical needs

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ANGIE'S LIST

As summer approaches, homeowners might be giving thought to outdoor kitchens or barbecue islands and other outdoor entertaining options. But these amenities sometimes require power, and you don't want to be running an extension cord to the backyard. What can you do to accommodate outdoor electrical needs for the summer?

Electricians say adding a new outdoor outlet is a relatively simple task. In most cases, they can piggyback off an existing indoor outlet and simply run another line off the same circuit.

Outdoor power outlets should always contain ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI), which automatically cut off power in the event of an energy spike—an important safety feature for any outlet that can be exposed to water. In addition, outdoor electrical outlets should be equipped with a rubber-sealed cover that can be closed when the outlet is not in use.

"You want it to be both GFCI-protected and weather resistant," says Brent Yauchler, owner of The Electrican in Mount Horeb, Wisc. He says if you have existing outdoor outlets that are more than 10 years old, you should take a look and make sure the rubber gasket still gives a good seal when closed.

Wesley Sedain, co-owner of Alley Electric in Fremont, Calif., says he charges between $350 and $400 to install an outdoor outlet, with the price rising somewhat if the existing outlet is an older one without a proper grounding wire, or if no outlet exists where the homeowner wants to install an outdoor one. "In those cases, we need to run a new dedicated circuit," he says.

Yauchler charges about $150 to install an outdoor outlet, but the price goes down if you're installing more than one outlet, since the price includes a minimum labor fee.

Sedain says he installs summer outdoor outlets for barbecue islands and outdoor entertainment centers, but he most frequently installs outdoor outlets in the fall, in preparation for holiday lighting setups.

OTHER SUMMER ELECTRICAL ISSUES

In addition to outdoor needs, other specific electrical problems develop during summer. Sedain says he often talks to homeowners who run into trouble with portable air conditioners. Portable A/C units tend to draw quite a bit of power, so if you run one in the living room on the same circuit as another electronic device, it runs a high risk of tripping the circuit breaker—particularly since living rooms and bedrooms aren't equipped with circuits capable of handling as much power as kitchens and utility rooms.

Sedain says the solution for a portable air conditioner is to keep it on one outlet without any other device, and if that doesn't work, you'll need to run a dedicated circuit that can handle more power, which will cost about $300. "However, that dedicated circuit will be able to accommodate other high-powered devices, such as running a portable heater in winter," he says.

Yauchler also advises homeowners to consider whole-house surge protection in summertime, if they don't already have it. This protects against lightning and major electrical spikes, and gives much more protection than surge-protection power strips. He charges about $250 to install one.

Paul F. P. Pogue is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Kinds of roofing shingles to choose from

It's important to consider the pros and cons of several different types of roof shingles and the relative cost of each roofing material, as well as consult with a local roofing contractor to determine which shingles work best for your house and in your part of the country. Here's a look at some commonly used roofing materials:

1. Asphalt shingles

Generally the most frequently used, asphalt shingles are relatively inexpensive. Plus, if you purchase coated asphalt shingles, they may meet the Energy Star standards for a cool roof and earn you a rebate. Three-tab asphalt shingles are thinner and slightly less expensive than laminated or architectural asphalt shingles. And though they tend to be less expensive, asphalt shingles have a relatively short life span of 20 to 30 years.

2. Tile shingles

These shingles have a unique appearance characteristic of the Southwest states and colonial Spanish architecture. Tile shingles are some of the most expensive to purchase and install, but also are one of the longest-lasting and durable materials on the market, lasting more than 50 years. However, The National Roofing Contractors Association cautions that some homes might not be able to structurally support the weight of tile shingles.

3. Metal roofs

Appropriate for homes with especially flat or steep rooflines, metal roofing can either be solid metal or constructed metal shingles. Low-end galvanized metal roofs are relatively inexpensive, but can last up to 50 years. Metal roofs are becoming a popular option in many areas of the country. Once seen largely in the Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions, metal roofs are making an inroad into the Midwest and southern United States.

4. Wood shingles

More expensive than asphalt, wood shingles are known to be more aesthetically appealing because of their natural appearance. If you choose a hardwood, such as cedar or redwood, the shingles should last at least 30 years and sometimes as long as 50 years.

5. Slate shingles

This material is especially popular in the Northeastern portion of the United States, because the slate from which the shingles are made is quarried there. These shingles are extremely durable, with a life span of up to 50 years. It's not uncommon to find old farmhouses that are leak-free and still have their original slate-shingled roofs. If your budget doesn't allow for real slate shingles, you can always consider a synthetic slate product, which has a similar appearance, but a slightly shorter life span.

Start planning before building a patio

By TOM LANGE
ANGIE'S LIST

Before paying the deposit to build a new patio, take a moment and step outside.

Look at the paths leading to the backyard. Any trees or bushes blocking access might require trimming or removal to make room for equipment needed for the job.

Also, which way is the wind blowing? That's important to know if you plan to add a barbecue grill, outdoor kitchen or fire pit. Guests won't enjoy spending an evening with smoke in their faces.

The key to building a patio that holds up for years involves creating a detailed plan before breaking ground. A qualified contractor can design that plan, and answer questions you might not think to ask, such as why wind direction matters.

"I've never had one person think (about) which way the wind blows," says Robert Harmon, president of Elite Home Remodeling in Columbus, Ohio.

FINDING AND WORKING WITH A PATIO CONTRACTOR

The right patio contractor should listen to your needs, and create a plan or suggest alternatives. They can also anticipate potential problems before construction begins.

For example, building a patio facing south or west means the sun will bear down in the afternoon, which could cause problems if you plan to regularly cook out in the evening.

A skilled patio contractor can suggest a new spot for the patio, or explain how a pergola or awning provides shade, Harmon says.

"The contractor should be providing different options," Harmon says.

Also, talk with prospective contractors about how the patio could be used in the future.

If you hope to eventually build an outdoor kitchen or connect a grill to natural gas, consider adding a natural gas line as part of the project. Otherwise, you might have to break apart and rebuild the patio in the future.

Building a patio can be as invasive as installing a pool. It's best to address concerns your neighbors have about how the project could affect their properties.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Be cautious of contractors who try to talk you into a vastly different project without providing an explanation, or quote a price without providing specifics about the job.

Vet potential contractors by looking at their previous work. Then, ask about the cost, time and types of labor involved.

HARDSCAPING OFTEN LEADS TO LANDSCAPING

Before construction begins, take your lawn and landscaping into consideration.

Contractors likely won't be driving concrete trucks into your backyard, but they will use heavy equipment to help with digging and gravel placement. This equipment can range between six and eight feet wide and weigh 5,000 and 10,000 pounds, says Will Mattingly, head of operations for Mattingly Concrete Inc. in Indianapolis.

Making enough room for that equipment often means clearing trees, bushes and other items from the path to the backyard. Laying plywood strips can limit damage to the lawn, though grass seed, straw or topsoil might also be needed to repair damaged sections of grass, Mattingly and Harmon say.

"Typically, with almost any patio project, a small- to medium-size landscaping project should be anticipated when the project is complete," Mattingly says.

INFORM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Lastly, tell your neighbors about the project.

Building a patio can be as invasive as installing a pool. It's best to address concerns your neighbors have about how the project could affect their properties.

"You really want to keep your neighbors happy while you're doing these projects," Mattingly says.

Tom Lange is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

COMFORT FOOD

Grilled pork chops with mango sauce

A smoky, but still sweet, mango sauce adds brilliant, sunny color and a kick of flavor to these simply grilled pork chops.

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 small (4- to 6-ounce) onion, finely chopped
1 chipotle chile in adobo, seeded, finely chopped
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
2 large ripe mangoes, peeled and chopped
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
4 (6 ounces each) bone-in pork loin or rib chops, 3/4-inch thick
Salt
Pepper
1 green onion, thinly sliced, for garnish
1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves, for garnish

1. Prepare outdoor grill for covered direct grilling on medium.

2. Prepare mango sauce: In 12-inch skillet, heat oil on medium-high. Add onion and cook 2 to 3 minutes or until browned, stirring occasionally. Add chipotle and oregano; cook 1 minute, stirring. Add mangoes, water, and sugar; cook 10 minutes or until mangoes are soft, stirring occasionally.

3. Meanwhile, sprinkle pork with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper to season both sides. Grill, covered, 8 to 9 minutes or until browned outside and still slightly pink inside, turning over once.

4. Transfer pork chops to cutting board; let rest 5 minutes.

5. Spoon mango sauce over pork. Garnish with green onion and cilantro. Serves 4.

Each serving: About 385 calories, 15g total fat (4g saturated), 80mg cholesterol, 4g dietary fiber, 27g protein. For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our Web site at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/. ***(Hearst Communications, Inc.)***

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Avengers: Infinity War' crosses $2 billion in box office

NEW YORK (AP)—The supersized superhero hit "Avengers: Infinity War" has crossed $2 billion in worldwide ticket sales, becoming only the fourth film to reach that rarified box-office milestone. The Walt Disney Co. announced Tuesday that "Infinity War" reached the mark Monday, about seven weeks after opening. The only other movies in the $2 billion club are "Avatar," "Titanic" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." "Infinity War" currently ranks as the fifth highest-grossing film in the U.S. and Canada with $656.1 million thus far. Its $257.7 million domestic opening weekend set a new record. The Marvel release has done just as well overseas. In China, the film's $369.7 million gross to date ranks third all-time. An "Avengers" sequel to "Infinity War" is scheduled to be released in May of next year.

Rose McGowan to go on trial in January on cocaine charge

LEESBURG, Va. (AP)—Actress and activist Rose McGowan will stand trial in January on a charge of felony cocaine possession in Virginia. News outlets report McGowan's trial was set on Tuesday, a day after she was indicted. She'll be tried on Jan. 15. Charging documents say cocaine was found in a wallet McGowan left on a plane last year. McGowan has maintained she's innocent, suggesting in court papers that the drugs were planted at the behest of producer Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein attorney Ben Brafman called that allegation a "ludicrous claim." McGowan was among the first to accuse Weinstein of sexual assault. She and others say he's aggressively sought to discredit his accusers. Weinstein has denied all accusations. Her attorney Jose Baez said McGowan's charge is a result of "her activism as a voice for women everywhere."

Streisand gives early nod of approval to Lady Gaga's 'Star'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barbra Streisand's "A Star Is Born" is being reborn online with scenes she'd cut from the 1976 movie. Long known as a perfectionist, Streisand tinkered with the film to restore an exchange between the star-crossed lovers played by her and Kris Kristofferson and an instrumental take on the Oscar-winning tune "Evergreen." The romantic drama, coming to Netflix along with other Streisand projects, isn't the only "Star" on the horizon: A new version with Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper will be in theaters this fall. Streisand is giving an early thumbs-up to the fourth version of the romance between a rising young performer and a fading one, which Cooper directed.

Trump slams Robert De Niro as 'a very Low IQ individual'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is slamming actor Robert De Niro as "a very Low IQ individual." At Sunday night's Tony Awards, De Niro launched an expletive at Trump. On Monday, the actor apologized to Canadians for the "idiotic behavior of my president." Trump is responding on Twitter as he returns from his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore. Trump says De Niro, who won an Academy Award for his performance in 1980's "Raging Bull," "has received to (sic) many shots to the head by real boxers in movies." Trump says he believes De Niro "may be 'punch-drunk,'" adding, "Wake up Punchy!"

U2 dedicates song to Anthony Bourdain at Apollo show

NEW YORK (AP)—U2 frontman Bono honored the late Anthony Bourdain toward the end of the band's special performance at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Bono spoke of losing a "lot of inspiring, useful people" over the past few years "who gave up on their own life" alluding to the apparent suicides of musicians Chris Cornell and Chester Bennington, as well as fashion designer Kate Spade. "And now this great storyteller, who I'm sure has stories he couldn't tell us. So for Anthony Bourdain, and his friends and family this is a song inspired by a great, great, great friend of ours. His name is Michael Hutchence," Bono said Monday night before launching into an impassioned version of "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of."

John Travolta feted at pizzeria from 'Saturday Night Fever'

NEW YORK (AP)—John Travolta has gotten quite the celebration at a New York City pizza joint made famous in his hit movie "Saturday Night Fever." Lenny's Pizza in Brooklyn was highlighted in the 1977 blockbuster when Travolta's Tony Manero character ordered two slices and ate them one on top of the other as he walked down the street. The restaurant has become a popular tourist spot with people still ordering the double-decker slices. Travolta joined hundreds of fans on Tuesday at a special ceremony outside Lenny's, which also named a slice in his honor. The Daily News reports the event also promoted Travolta's new movie, "Gotti," in which he portrays the late Mafia boss John Gotti.

WORLD CUP HITS! AP

In this June 5, 2018 photo customers look at different national soccer team jerseys that are on display at a shop in London. With just days to go before the FIFA World Cup, some winners and losers have emerged among the often wild and wacky team jerseys. Spain, Nigeria, and Croatia are among several of the more festive standouts in jerseys for the global soccer showcase, with loads of sentimental touches in the designs of the 32 teams. With millions in exposure and retail sales at stake, the World Cup kits of 2018 can be categorized, generally speaking, like this: Team Plain, Team Retro and Team Cool Kid on the Pitch.

Retired man gives his own generation the silent treatment

DEAR ABBY: My husband, who is retired, now prefers to talk exclusively to people under 21. He says he is "mentoring" them, though I haven't seen any indication of this.

He says he has no interest in talking to people our age, so when we get together with our friends, who are mostly our age, he says practically nothing. When I asked why, he said he prefers to impart his knowledge to younger people. I have suggested that he volunteer with younger people, but he wasn't interested—he just wants to hang out with them.

I'm not sure what to do. He seems depressed if they don't respond to him in the way he would like. Mostly they show little interest in being with him. What, if anything, should I do about this? It has been going on for more than two years now.

CONCERNED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CONCERNED: I feel sorry for your husband. He may avoid companions his own age because they remind him that he, too, is getting older. It's no wonder young people don't respond to him. I can imagine few pastimes less appetizing than socializing with someone who "imparts knowledge" by talking down to them. They might find him more appealing if he asked them questions and listened to what they had to say.

Consider talking to him about your concern that he is socially isolating himself from contemporaries, because the longer he continues, the less welcome he will find himself. However, until he comes to that realization and decides to fix it, do not expect anything to change.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are proud parents of two adult daughters. They both graduated from a local university. Our rule was if they were to complete their education locally, they had to continue to live at home.

Now, our goddaughter "Justine" is in community college and planning to transfer to a four-year college next semester. I was told recently that she's been trying to convince her boyfriend to get a place together. Justine's parents would prefer she remain at home, but won't fight her if she moves in with her boyfriend. I'm pretty sure they'll continue to fund her education as best they can until she graduates.

We have been contributing financially toward our goddaughter's education. My husband and I feel that it's a waste of money just so they can "play house." She has a good relationship with her family and can come and go as she pleases. I'm afraid they will run into money issues and use the money we give her to live on instead of for school, which is not OK with me. Plus, I don't think I should do any different for her than I did for my own children.

I'm afraid if I let her know how I feel, it will strain our relationship—perhaps even the one we have with her parents. Should this be my concern or should I let it go?

HER GODMOTHER

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR GODMOTHER: It's time for an honest conversation with your goddaughter, and it wouldn't be a bad idea if you included her parents. Explain that you would be uncomfortable subsidizing her if she lives with her boyfriend because it's not how you raised your children. You have already contributed generously to her education.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr.

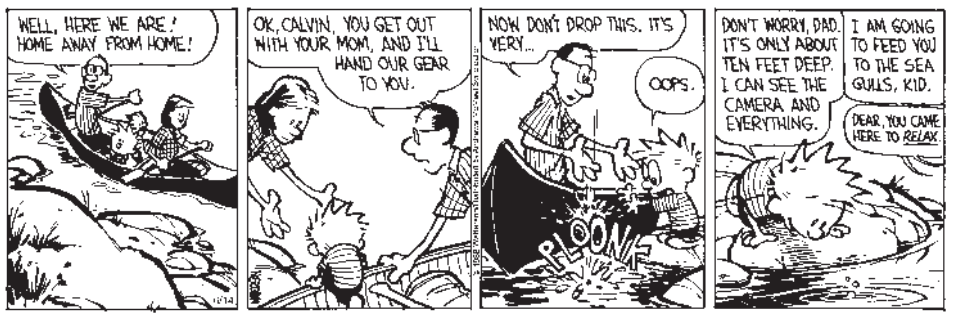
ABBY

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

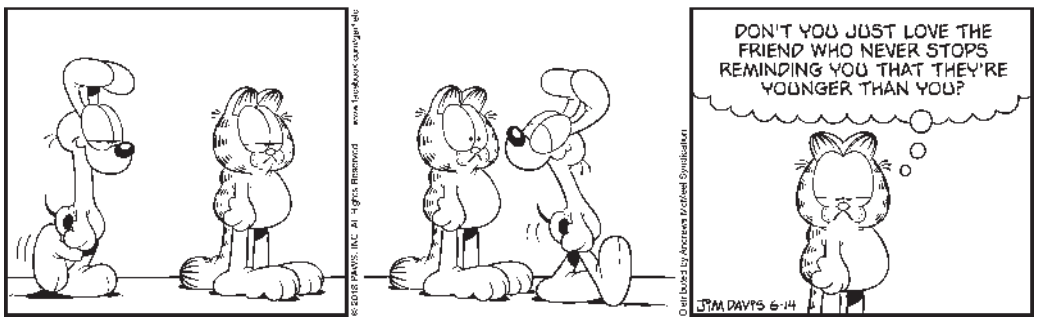
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, HERE WE ARE! HOME AWAY FROM HOME!
OK, CALVIN, YOU GET OUT WITH YOUR MOM, AND I'LL HAND OUR GEAR TO YOU.
NOW DON'T DROP THIS. IT'S VERY...
OOPS.
PLOINK
DON'T WORRY, DAD. IT'S ONLY ABOUT TEN FEET DEEP. I CAN SEE THE CAMERA AND EVERYTHING.
I AM GOING TO FEED YOU TO THE SEA GULLS, KID.
DEAR, YOU CAME HERE TO RELAX.

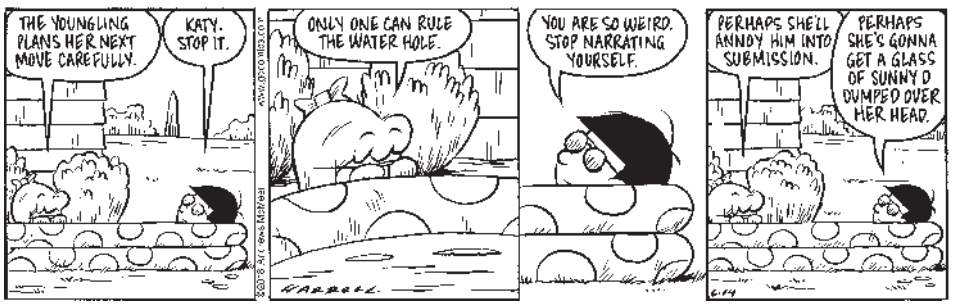
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



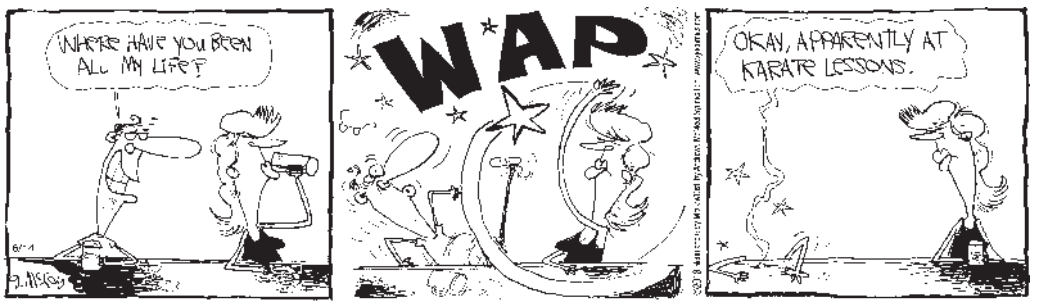
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE YOUNGLING PLANS HER NEXT MOVE CAREFULLY.
KATY. STOP IT.
ONLY ONE CAN RULE THE WATER HOLE.
YOU ARE SO WEIRD. STOP NARRATING YOURSELF.
PERHAPS SHE'LL ANNOY HIM INTO SUBMISSION.
PERHAPS SHE'S GONNA GET A GLASS OF SUNNY D DUMPED OVER HER HEAD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dogpatch creator
5 Detail, briefly
9 "Keep it down!"
12 Pitcher Hershiser
13 Blue shade
14 Brit's restroom
15 Managua's nation
17 Have debts
18 Not as knotty
19 Carried on
21 Boob tube
22 Deadly virus
24 Swinging joints?
27 Past
28 Related
31 I love (Lat.)
32 Caustic solution
33 — tizzy
34 Matador's foe
36 Earth Day mo.
37 Superior, for one
38 Plot surprise
40 "Let It —"
41 Was able to
43 "Tender Mercies" star Robert
47 Director Lee
48 Jakarta's nation
51 Depot (Abbr.)
52 Port of Algeria
53 Felonious flights
54 Fa follower
55 Catches some rays
56 Espy

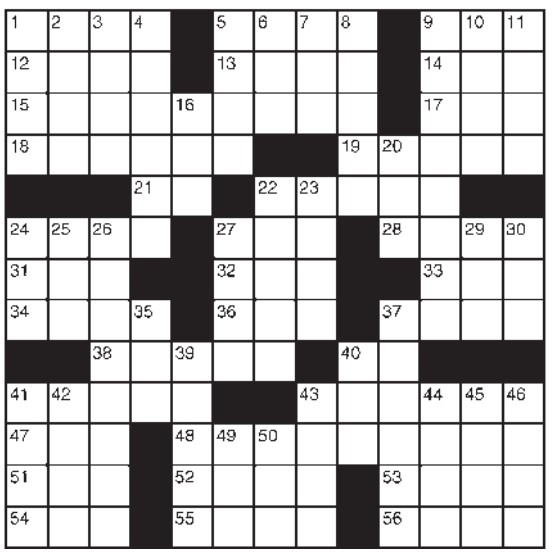
DOWN

1 Scoop holder
2 Met solo
3 Chest muscles, briefly
4 Braids
5 Luminary
6 Wooden pin
7 Vichy water
8 Mild cigar
9 Bratislava's nation
10 Inventor Elias
11 Tackled weeds
16 Speed (up)
20 — carte
22 Cairo's nation
23 Afrikaner
24 Chapeau
25 "As I see it," to a texter
26 Lisbon's nation
27 Regrettably
29 Pen filler
30 Scot's denial
35 Barn bird
37 Razes
39 Knucklehead
40 Chignon
41 Mama — Elliot
42 Aware of
43 Dresses in
44 Now, in a memo
45 Prom rental
46 Endure
49 Gun lobby org.
50 Author Brown

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	O	O	M		R	A	N		S	C	U	D
A	C	R	E		U	R	I		T	H	R	U
C	H	E	R	U	B	I	C		R	E	N	E
H	O	M	I	L	Y		H	E	A	R	S	T
			T	A	D		E	N	T	O		
A	B	C		N	E	W		D	U	K	E	S
S	O	H	O		E	A	T		M	E	R	E
S	W	E	P	T		R	E	B		E	R	A
		F	E	A	M		M	O	E			
B	O	R	N	E	O		P	A	R	R	O	T
E	R	I	E		C	H	E	R	O	O	T	S
A	C	E	R		H	A	S		D	R	O	P
M	A	S	S		A	N	T		E	Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 6-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lucy Hale, 29; Kevin McHale, 30; Diablo Cody, 40; Boy George, 57.

Happy Birthday: Make this a year of positive change. Engage in activities that are conducive to getting into the best shape possible. A healthy lifestyle will promote a positive attitude that will encourage you to make better choices. Love and romance should also be priorities. Either rekindle the flame with someone you love or plan to meet someone new. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 23, 31, 34, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learn all you can about your heritage from older family members, friends and relatives. It will enlighten you about the likes and dislikes you have and help you overcome some of the things that have been holding you back. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Your mind will be racing a mile a minute, but that doesn't mean you have to make a hasty decision. Use your enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge to ferret out any information that will verify that you are making the right choice. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Strive to stand out when dealing with peers or work-related matters. Your contribution should be based on something that is unique as well as realistic. Don't underestimate someone who is just as competitive and driven as you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't shy away from the unfamiliar or unusual. Observing what and how others are doing things will spark your imagination and encourage you to try doing things differently. Don't be reluctant to let someone know how you feel. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Offer compliments and enjoy collaborating with people you find interesting. A partnership may need to be adjusted to better suit the changes that are taking place in your life. Discuss your plans and listen to suggestions. Love is featured. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Share your thoughts with upbeat people you can count on to give you the lowdown. A change to make a difference should be a priority. Much can be accomplished if you are diligent in your pursuits. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your emotions in check and focus on taking care of your responsibilities early so no one can complain if you move on to pleasurable pastimes. Don't let what others say deter you from doing your own thing. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A day trip will lead to an interesting encounter as well as knowledge that will be useful when dealing with a friend or relative. A unique situation will result in having greater disposable income to put toward something you enjoy doing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take stock of how well you've been taking care of your health, personal finances and any pending legal matters you face. Don't feel pressured to make a decision before you have sufficient information to do so. A physical change is encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Aim to stabilize your situation by building strong relationships with people who can help or deter you from reaching your goals. Changes can be made if you have the support of those willing to contribute as well. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't feel you have to make a physical change because someone is derogatory about the way you look. Be a trendsetter, not a follower, and please your inner voice, not someone who is too afraid to be different. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Trusting your judgment, not what someone insinuates, is the right way to do something. Use your voice to ensure that any changes made are in your best interest. Push for equality. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, inquisitive and unique. You are visionary and exclusive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6				8		
	1			8			7	
2			9		7			5
		9				5		
	7						1	
		8				2		
8			2		5			9
	6			4			2	
		3				1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	4	6	3	2	1	9	7	8
2	8	9	7	4	5	3	6	1
3	1	7	6	8	9	5	4	2
7	3	2	4	5	8	6	1	9
9	6	4	1	3	7	8	2	5
8	5	1	2	9	6	7	3	4
4	2	5	8	7	3	1	9	6
1	9	3	5	6	4	2	8	7
6	7	8	9	1	2	4	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOME READING TITLES Solution: 10 letters

S	R	T	I	B	B	O	H	A	M	L	E	T	D	O
E	E	W	E	R	D	Y	C	N	A	N	O	V	E	L
M	T	I	N	M	O	C	K	I	N	G	B	I	R	D
A	T	L	L	R	E	H	T	A	F	D	O	G	Q	A
G	O	I	O	F	A	M	O	U	S	C	O	O	P	M
R	P	G	L	R	E	L	P	R	U	P	K	F	E	A
E	Y	H	I	A	U	H	T	S	I	W	T	I	M	G
G	R	T	T	N	I	S	T	O	R	Y	H	N	M	E
N	R	E	A	K	R	I	A	F	Y	T	I	N	A	V
U	A	D	K	C	I	D	Y	B	O	M	E	V	(I)	F
H	H	I	X	A	L	U	C	A	R	D	F	S	(D)	R
A	O	R	N	E	V	O	L	I	V	E	R	Y	(E)	I
R	T	P	P	R	E	J	U	D	I	C	E	O	(A)	D
D	Y	B	S	T	A	G	T	A	E	R	G	B	L	A
Y	E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	O	L	O	C	Y

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Book Thief, Boys, Color, Damage, Dracula, Emma, Famous, Finn, Five, Frank, Friday, Godfather, Great Gatsby, Hamlet, Hardy, Harry Potter, Hobbit, Hunger Games, Idea, Lolita, Lord of the Flies, Love, Moby-Dick, Mockingbird, Nancy Drew, Narnia, Novel, Oliver, Prejudice, Pride, Purple, Scoop, Story, Stranger, Twilight, Twist, Vanity Fair

Yesterday's Answer: Exclusive

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Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: E.J.B.S. Minor Child By: Ray Santos and Rosalyn Borja Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0253 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 18, 2018 at 9:00am at the Multi-purpose Hall Susupe, Saipan, before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2018.

Patrick V.Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPW/RG-110 (A-B)
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2018 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "H" PICK-UP TRUCK, 2WD, ACCESS CAB (A) AND ONE (1) CLASS "H" PICK-UP TRUCK 4X4, FOUR-FULL DOORS (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF ROADS AND GROUNDS"

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TH PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-101
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"GARAPAN FIELD SURVEILLANCE PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. KATIE GRAZIANO**, VIA E-MAIL TO kgraziano@dcrm.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., JUNE 25, 2018.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OVR-109
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND **MUST** BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. ARLENE YAMAGATA**, VIA E-MAIL TO: nmidir@ovrgov.net **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., JULY 06, 2018**.

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/S/ ARLENE KAY A.YAMAGATA
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, June 15, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Friday, June 15, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
IV. To vote and approve Application for Privileges for the following individuals:
New Applicants:
1. Dr. Magdy Maksy
2. Dr. Donald Liberty
3. Dr. Scott Rineer
4. Dr. Charles Hughes
5. Dr. Jerry Gurkoff
6. Rhonda DiCostanzo, Cert. Nurse Midwife

Renewal Applicants:
1. Dr. James Toskas

IV. Adjournment

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Gregorius homers twice as Yankees top Nats

NEW YORK (AP)—Didi Gregorius was pleased after ending a long power outage with a pair of home runs. Bryce Harper felt relieved after escaping serious injury when twice hit by a pitch.

CC Sabathia was just surprised, not realizing why the crowd gave him a prolonged ovation in the fourth inning of a superb outing.

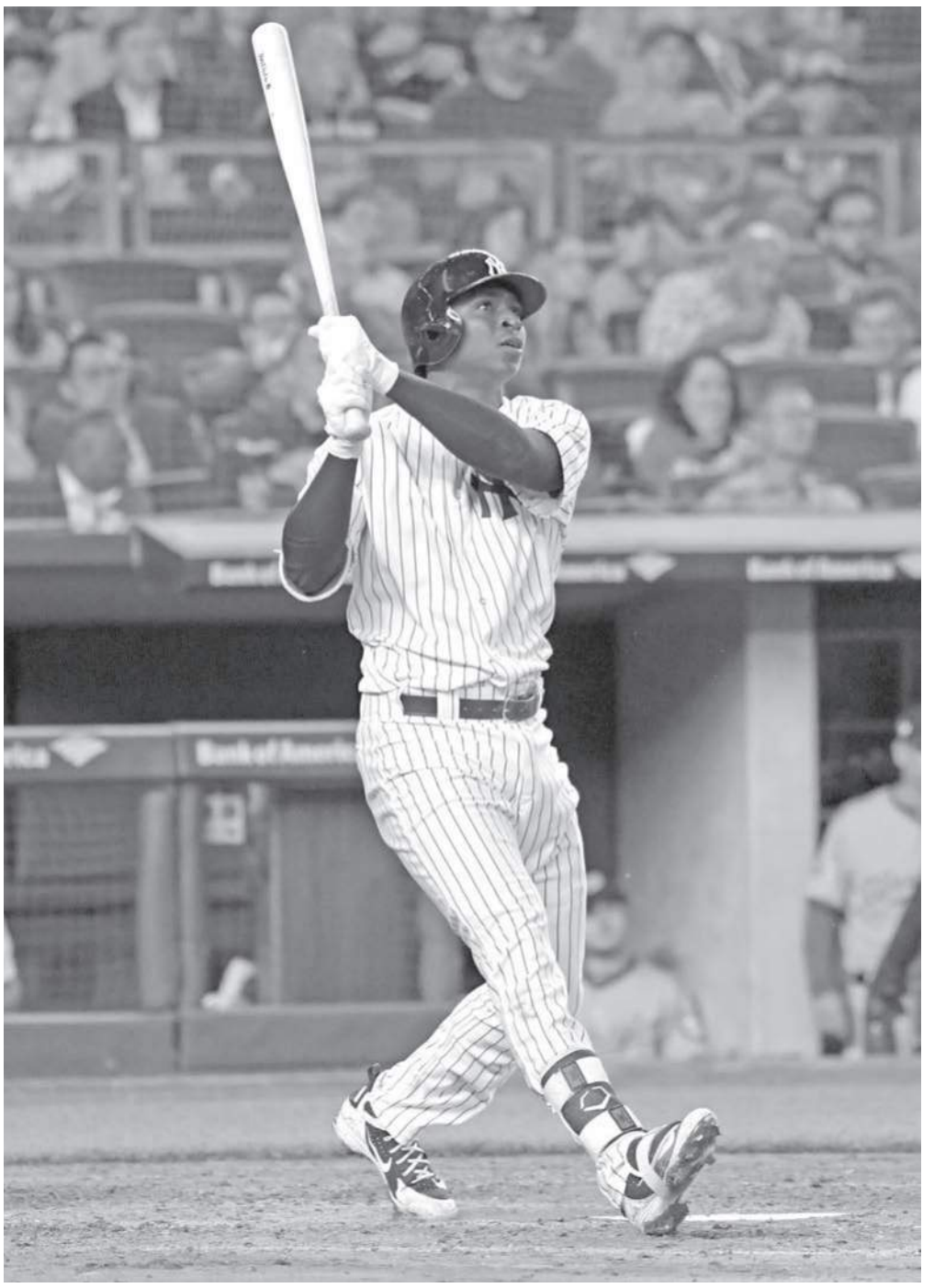
Playing a team with a winning record for the first time this month, the New York Yankees beat the Washington Nationals 3-0 Tuesday night for their 10th win in 12 games.

In a matchup of division leaders, Harper gave the Nationals a scare when he fell to the ground in pain after getting hit on the right elbow by a 90 mph pitch from Sabathia in the fifth inning. The 2015 NL MVP remained in the game but then came out after he was hit on the left foot by Dellin Betances' 89 mph slider leading off the eighth.

"I feel fine. Elbow feels OK, and the big toe just hurts a little bit," Harper said. "I already got an X-ray on the toe. I'm fine."

Gregorius has had a "That's Life" season, following the song's lyrics of "You're riding high in April, shot down in May."

He hit .327 with 10 homers and 30 RBI through the season's first full month, slumped to a .151 average with one homer and five RBI in May and began the night with no homers and one RBI in June.



AP
New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius watches his home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Phillies 5, Rockies 4

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola struck out 10 in another dominant performance and Scott Kingery hit a three-run homer, leading Philadelphia to the win.

Nola (8-2) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings, lowering his ERA to 2.27. Seranthony Dominguez escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth for his third save.

Kingery drove a 1-2 pitch from Jon Gray (6-7) out to left-center to give the Phillies a 3-0 lead in the first. He added a sacrifice fly in the third.

The Phillies have won two in a row for the first time since a three-game winning streak May 13-17.

The Rockies have lost five straight and nine of 11.

Braves 8, Mets 2

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies hit a grand slam and Freddie Freeman homered during Atlanta's six-run sixth inning.

Braves starter Mike Foltynewicz pitched five scoreless innings before departing with triceps tightness. Shane Carle (4-1) got two outs for the win.

Ender Inciarte added a pair of RBI singles to help Atlanta shake a rough West Coast trip, when it lost four of six. The Braves moved ahead of Washington for first in the NL East by beating a Mets team that has lost nine of 10 and 16 of 20.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1

In St. Peterburg, Wilson Ramos homered, and six Tampa Bay relievers combined for a five-hitter.

With right-handers Chris Archer and Jake Faria on the disabled list, Tampa Bay is using relievers to start three times through the rotation. Austin Pruitt (2-3) pitched 2 2/3 innings for the win, and Sergio Romo worked the ninth for his second save.

Ramos put the Rays up 2-0 with his two-run drive off Jaime Garcia (2-5) in the third.

Marlins 3, Giants 1

In Miami, Trevor Richards pitched six effective innings for his first major league win, helping the Marlins top the Giants.

Richards (1-3) allowed two hits in his seventh major league start. The 25-year-old right-hander struck out two and walked three.

Brandon Crawford's groundout in the first inning drove in the only run for the Giants, who had just three hits.

Kyle Barraclough pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save in six chances.

JT Riddle had a two-run double for Miami, and Starlin Castro had two hits and knocked in a run.

Padres 4, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Eric Hosmer homered for San Diego, and the Padres carried a perfect game into the sixth inning of their 10th win in 14 games.

Matt Strahm started the bullpen game and retired nine batters on 36 pitches, including four strikeouts. It was the team's third bullpen start this season while left-hander Joey Lucchesi recovers from a right hip strain.

Adam Cimber (3-2) retired the next six with two strikeouts before Harrison Bader broke up the perfect game with an infield single in the sixth.

Mariners 6, Angels 3

In Seattle, when Mike Trout gets on a power-hitting hot streak like this, it's hard for other teams to watch—and match.

The Seattle Mariners have been doing just fine the past two games going toe-to-toe with the Los Angeles Angels slugger.

Mitch Haniger and Ryon Healy each homered twice as the first-place Mariners shook off two homers by Trout for the second consecutive night, beating the Angels 6-3 on Tuesday.

Trout took sole possession of the major league lead with 23 home runs. He also hit a pair in the Angels' 5-3 loss Monday and has 20 career homers at Safeco Field, most in any visiting ballpark.

Mike Leake (7-3) allowed one run in six innings for Seattle, which has won three consecutive games and 10 of 12 overall to remain a half-game ahead of Houston atop the AL West.

Diamondbacks 13, Pirates 8

In Phoenix, Arizona's offense, so awful in May, is on a scoring binge in June—and Jon Jay joined the party.

Jay got his first three hits for Arizona, including a three-run homer, and the Diamondbacks won their fifth game in a row with a sloppy victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Dodgers 12, Rangers 5

In Los Angeles, After muddling their way through the first two months of the season, the Los Angeles Dodgers are hitting their stride in June.

Joc Pederson, Max Muncy and Yasiel Puig homered off ageless wonder Bartolo Colon, and the defending NL champions broke loose for seven runs in the fourth inning to rout the last-place Texas Rangers improve to 8-2 this month.

Los Angeles moved two games above .500 for the first time this season.

Reds 5, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Billy Hamilton eluded a rundown tag, and the Cincinnati Reds escaped with a victory.

Joey Votto hit a bases-loaded triple in the 10th inning after Hamilton slipped out of a rundown, and the Reds beat the Royals.

"Billy showed his athleticism and got out of that jam there and set it up for Joey," Reds manager Jim Riggleman said.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, it was the closest thing to a perfect scenario for the Red Sox: Eduardo Rodriguez on the mound against the lowly Baltimore Orioles.

Home runs by Rafael Devers and Andrew Benintendi helped Rodriguez win his fifth straight start, and Boston extended Baltimore's losing streak to six games.

Rodriguez (8-1) gave up two runs and eight hits over 5 2/3 innings to increase a career-best run of success that began on May 20 against the Orioles. Rodriguez is 3-0 this season against Baltimore, the team that gave the left-hander his first professional contract in 2010 and traded him to Boston in 2014.

Zack Martin, set to be highest-paid guard, rejoins Cowboys

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Zack Martin rejoined the Dallas Cowboys for mandatory minicamp Tuesday with the two-time All-Pro closing in on a contract that's expected to make him the highest-paid guard in the NFL.

Martin skipped all nine voluntary offseason practices while negotiations that started about a year ago kept dragging. But he was on the field after the club and his representatives got close on a deal over the weekend.

The 27-year-old Martin was set to make $9.3 million in the final year of his rookie deal. Martin's new contract is expected to surpass the $13.3 million annual average in the $66.5 million, five-year contract that Jacksonville's Andrew Norwell signed in March.

Martin, the 16th overall pick in 2014, was an All-Pro as a rookie when DeMarco Murray led the NFL in rushing for the NFC East champions. He repeated the feat two years later when rookie Ezekiel Elliott was the league rushing leader for another division champion.

A Pro Bowl player in each of his first four seasons, Martin only did individual and conditioning work in his first practice of the offseason. While coach Jason Garrett said that was more because Martin has been out, the former Notre Dame standout noted the contract isn't finished.

Four years ago, Martin was a rookie who engaged Sean Lee in a noncontact drill when the star linebacker's left knee gave way, resulting in a torn ligament that kept Lee out all season. It was the first offseason practice.

"Right now, until the pen actually gets on paper, I'm going to be smart about it and just do individual work and some conditioning so I don't do something stupid," Martin said. "Two more days, so we'll see what they want to do, if we just want to play it smart."

Martin said he wasn't sure if he would have attended the first mandatory practice without the progress in negotiations. With the agreement close, he said it was an easy decision.

During the voluntary portion of the offseason, Martin said he worked out by himself while players were in meetings. Before practice started each day, he went home, where he "kind of got a little stir crazy."

"If you'd have asked me, I never would have thought in a million years I'd be the guy holding out and not coming to things," Martin said. "I had to make a decision, as hard as it was, but what was best for me. Hopefully it gets done, but I think I made the right decision."

Irving coy on possible reunion with LeBron

BOSTON (AP)— Kyrie Irving is playing coy about the possibility of reuniting with his former Cleveland Cavaliers teammate LeBron James next season in Boston.

The Celtics guard on Tuesday deferred when asked about the prospect of the team pursuing James this summer. The 33-year-old James has a player option to remain in Cleveland next season but could opt for free agency.

"In this business, I've kind of experienced it all and I've seen a lot, so we'll see what management decides," Irving said when asked if he would be open to playing alongside James again.

Irving was drafted No. 1 overall by the Cavaliers in 2011 and played three seasons with James, from 2014-17. The duo made three straight trips to the NBA Finals, winning a championship in 2016.

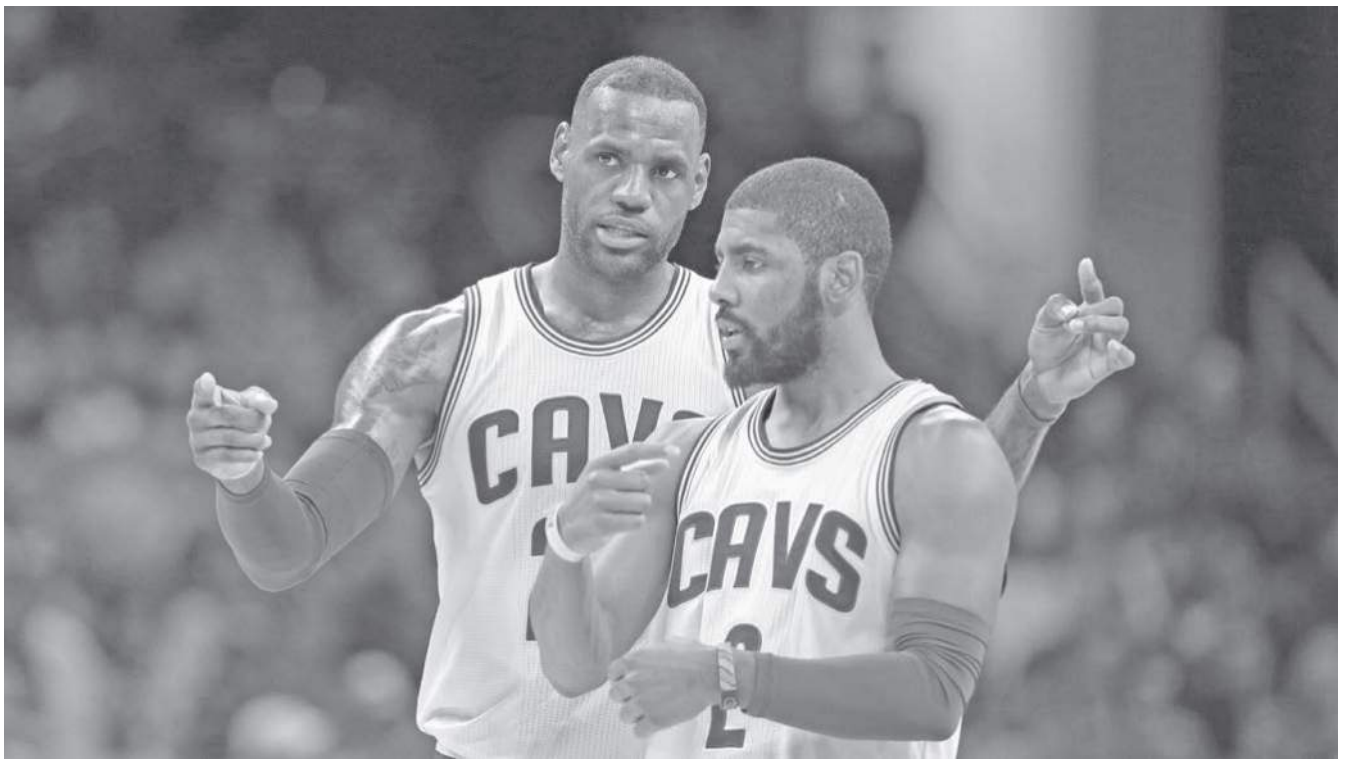
"Obviously, it's a business at the end of the day," Irving said. "Ownership and management, they're going to feel what's best for our future and I'm fully supportive of (them). We'll see what happens."

Irving was traded to Boston last August and averaged 24.4 points and 5.1 assists over 60 games in his first season with the Celtics.

The five-time All-Star missed the last 15 games of the regular season and the entirety of the playoffs after undergoing left knee surgery.

"To kind of have something like that unexpected, it was hurtful, because just a lot of what I wanted to accomplish with our guys and individually as one of the leaders of the team," Irving said.

Irving also had a separate surgery in May to repair a deviated septum, a procedure that kept him away from the sidelines for Game 7 of the Celtics' Eastern Conference Finals series against James and the Cavaliers.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) and Kyrie Irving (2) talk during a break in their match against the Golden State Warriors in Game 3 of the NBA Finals in Cleveland, Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

"Obviously, it wasn't going to feel the same (not being there), but I was just so proud of our guys and what they did," Irving said. "They passed a lot of expectations, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Cleveland beat Boston 87-79 in Game 7 to send James to his eighth consecutive Finals series. The Cavaliers were swept by the Golden State Warriors, dropping James' personal Finals record to 3-6.

The Celtics expect Irving to be completely recovered by the start of training camp in the fall.

"I'm feeling good," Irving said. "It was going to be a process coming back, just making sure I'm healthy enough for September. Just trying not to push it too hard."

Warriors celebrate back-to-back championships

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— For the second straight year, throngs of Golden State Warriors fans turned out for a victory parade to celebrate a team some are calling an NBA dynasty and got a treat when several players got off their buses to mingle with the crowd.

Hundreds of thousands of fans in gold and blue and holding signs that read "Dynasty" and "Back to Back Champions" waved from behind barriers set up along the route in downtown Oakland, California, as the Warriors rode by in the open, double-decker buses Tuesday.

Stephen Curry, NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant and the rest of the Warriors, who won their third title in four years last week, took turns raising the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the roaring crowd, which officials said could reach up to 1 million fans.

Officials had promised an "interactive" parade with some fans able to ask the players questions and giant TV screens for the crowd to see them and hear their answers as the moved along the route. But there were no screens and when Klay Thompson used a megaphone to say hello, his greeting was drowned out by the cheering crowd.

Curry was able to connect in a different way when he opened a bottle of champagne, shook it and sprayed the crowd with it. He briefly got off the bus and walked up to fans, throwing T-shirts, bracelets and other souvenirs to them and then holding the trophy up as dozens of cameras surrounded him. Curry wore a large sun hat and under it a "RUN TMC" baseball cap in honor of Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond and Chris Mullin, the namesakes for the Don Nelson-coached Warriors teams during the 1989-90 and 1990-91 seasons.

"We never really imagined that we would be having one parade, let alone two and now three," Curry said during a short live interview before the parade started. "But this is for you guys! We are going to try and get greedy and go get some more."

JaVale McGee, Nick Young and Jordan Bell posed for photographs and also mingled with fans, even hugging some of them, energizing the pumped up crowd. Even coach Steve Kerr joined in on the fun and walked up to fans to sign autographs.

"I'm just excited to be here with these guys" McGee, who was wearing only shorts, told KGO-TV. "Our fans are amazing! All the love that they show is just beautiful."

Young, also just in shorts during a very warm afternoon, ran up and down the street, giving fans high-fives. He then took a broom from a fan and posed for photographs as dozens of people took pictures with their phones.

The repeat champions went back-to-back, beating LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-85 on Friday night to finish off a four-game sweep of the NBA Finals in the fourth consecutive meeting between the clubs.

Melissa Marzan, 25, of Santa Cruz said she doesn't take the Warriors' winning streak for granted.

"We all know it's not going to happen forever, so for now we're just going to enjoy it," she said.

Oakland resident Jasmine Culp, 36, painted her lips blue and dressed in a sparkling golden sequined dress, sash, and blue-gold feather accessories to attend the parade with her three children, Jonavon, Jewel, and Cypher.

She acknowledged it could be the family's last parade in Oakland, since the Warriors plan to move to San Francisco next year.

"It's sad to see a big part of our city move away," she said. "Not going to want to travel over the bridge to see them, but we will."

Adriana Carnecer of San Francisco said she is a lifelong Warriors fan and is excited the team will be closer to home.

On the Warriors being dubbed a dynasty, the 15-year-old said "it's the start of something that's going to be greater than it already is."

Woods looking for win, final piece of his return to golf

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP0—Tiger Woods returned to the U.S. Open for the first time in three years and hardly anyone noticed.

Then again, it was late Sunday afternoon. Shinnecock Hills was practically empty.

"A bizarre experience," said Jordan Spieth, who played nine holes with him.

Such a quiet moment was rare for Woods in his celebrated return following four back surgeries. A year that began with intrigue soon gave way to hysteria over anticipation of his first victory in nearly five years.

That time has not arrived as Woods heads into the second major of the year.

"Golf is always frustrating," Woods said Tuesday after going nine holes with Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau, winners of the last two PGA Tour events. "There's always something that isn't quite right, and that's where we as players have to make adjustments. You've seen the tournaments I've played this year. There's always something. Hopefully, this is one of those weeks where I put it all together and even it out. And we'll see what happens."

It has been 10 years since Woods won his last U.S. Open, his 14th and last major. All it takes for him to temper any frustrations is to look back at last year, when he didn't know if he would even play another U.S. Open.

He was at a low point in his career and his personal life. While recovering from fusion surgery—his fourth surgery on his back in three years—he was arrested on a DUI charge and found to have a mixture of two painkillers, the sleeping aid Ambien, the anti-anxiety drug Xanax and the active ingredient for marijuana in his system. He entered a clinic to get help and pleaded guilty to a reckless driving charge that kept him out of jail.

Asked about the video of his arrest and how his life has changed, Woods replied, "It's gotten better."

That seems like longer than a year ago because Woods has been such an active part of the PGA Tour again. In some instances, he looks like the same Woods.

He hit one drive past Johnson on the par-5 fifth hole Tuesday that left him a 2-iron to the front of the green. He had two chances to win in March, missing a long birdie putt on the last hole in Innisbrook and hitting a drive out-of-bounds on the 16th hole at Bay Hill the following week.

But no trophies. No fist pumps.

"There's two ways of looking at that," Woods said. "I've given myself chances to win, which I didn't know if I was ever going to do again. And then again, not happy with the fact that I didn't win because I loved how it felt being there. ... And so, yeah, I've had my opportunities. Also, I'm very thankful to have had those opportunities. I didn't know if I was going to have them again."

What kind of opportunities will Shinnecock Hills offer?

Tuesday was the busiest day of practice under a clear sky, warm weather and a course that just about everyone is raving about.

Woods played nine holes in the afternoon Sunday and Monday—a change from the days when he would sweep the dew off the grass first thing in the morning—and nine holes Tuesday morning.

And while the crowd was relatively sparse for his morning round, there is no mistaking when Woods is around.

Jason Day was on the putting green when only a few people were around. And then suddenly, there was a gathering.

US has edge vs Morocco in anticipated 2026 World Cup vote

MOSCOW (AP)—If the football federations follow FIFA's guidance, the 2026 World Cup should be awarded to the North American bid on Wednesday.

More than 200 national football federations are to set to vote at around midday local time in Moscow (0900 GMT) at their annual meeting one day before the 2018 World Cup kicks off.

Success for Morocco relies on the electorate to follow the trend of recent hosting decisions and vote for a risky bid facing doubts about the ability to pull off the vast reconstruction project required to stage soccer's showpiece.

The 16 stadiums proposed by the joint United States-Canada-Mexico bid already exist and only need minor upgrades over eight years.

All 14 Moroccan venues must be built or renovated as part of the $16 billion investment in new infrastructure the African nation says is required.

FIFA's inspection reports highlighted three "high-risk" elements to Morocco's bid: stadiums, hotels and transport.

When FIFA President Gianni Infantino last week urged the more than 200 voting federations to "look at the report," it seemed a clear signal of the governing body's preference for security and stability offered the in North America.

AP

Delegates attend the FIFA congress on the eve of the opener of the 2018 soccer World Cup in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, June 13, 2018. The congress in Moscow is set to choose the host or hosts for the 2026 World Cup.

HANMI golf tournament set for July 14

The 17th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held on July 14 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Registration forms are now available at the following locations: Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort or at www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

The early bird tournament fee is $120 and includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $140 after the early bird deadline on July 6 at 5pm. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including accurate drive circle, nearest to the pin, longest drive, shortest drive, and accurate drive. The tournament will start at 7am

The tournament is also offering a number of hole-in-prizes. It is open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

The awards banquet, featuring a wide selection of dishes from the kitchens of HANMI member hotels, will also be held on July 1 at 6pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan,

For more information, contact tournament chairman Tyrell Pauling at tyrell.pauling@hyatt.com or call 670-234-1234. ***(PR)***

GREGOIRE

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tel in Guam for an unbeaten 3-0 record in the round-robin contest and the lead in the six-team field. Kwon eked out a 3-6, 6-2, 10-7 triumph over Theodore in the first singles match, while Gregoire had an easier win over Charles, 6-1, 6-2, to secure victory No. 3 for the No. 1 seed CNMI. The undefeated pair then topped their FSM 1 foes (2-1) in the doubles, 6-4, 6-3, to complete the shutout win.

With three down, Gregoire and Kwon have two more games left and a victory over Guam 2 (has a 0-2 record pending final results of yesterday's doubles game vs North Boys Combined) today would allow the CNMI tandem to zero in on the division title. The Commonwealth bets, who earlier topped Guam 1 (1-2) and FSM 2 (1-2), will have their last game on Friday against North Boys Combined (1-1).

In the girls U12, the CNMI 1 is still in the race after improving to a 2-1 mark. Helen Kim and Serin Chung dominated FSM 2 yesterday to notch their second straight win after dropping their debut against Guam last Monday. Both Chung and Kim needed only two sets to beat Shelly Palsis, 6-0, 6-2, and Arthisha Mallarme, 6-1, 6-0, respectively. The Commonwealth pair also took the short route to victory in the doubles against the FSM 2 duo, 6-2, 6-0.

In other results in the division, CNMI 2's Dana Lee and Ye Jin Son fell to a 1-2 card after being swept by FSM 1's Desirae Wolphagen and Leilah Etscheit.

Paik, Kaga enter semis

Meanwhile, Seung Jin Paik is the lone CNMI player left standing in the boys U14 singles after advancing to the semifinals.

The No. 1 seed Paik downed Guam's Aarman Sachdev, 6-1, 6-3, to set up a Final Four showdown with the latter's compatriot and No. 4 seed Dakota Gibson, who eliminated the CNMI's Andy Kim, 6-1, 6-3.

No. 3 Daniel Kang was the second Commonwealth player to get a pink slip, as he was stunned by the unranked Noeln Narruhn of FSM, 7-5, 5-7, 10-4. It will be an all-FSM semis tiff at the lower part of the draw after Deavyn Etscheit also pulled off an upset over No. 2 seed Thomas Ysrael of Guam, 7-5, 6-3.

In the girls U14 singles, Coume Kaga swept all three games in the elimination to make it to the semifinals. She earned a perfect mark in Group A after crushing FSM's Niqui Peterson, 6-0, 6-0, and will play No. 2 seed and Group B second finisher Kaia Malakooti of Guam in the semifinals today.

Kaga's fellow CNMI players Hye Jin Elliot and Anika Camacho missed the cut after placing third and fourth, respectively in Group B.

In the doubles, Elliot and Kaga drew a bye and automatically marched into the semis where they will face Camacho and Palau's Galya Mikel, a 7-5, 1-6, 10-8 winner over FSM's Movida Jerry and Wolphagen.

In the boys doubles, the four CNMI players are all in the semis. Kang and Paik gained a Final Four entry after sweeping FSM's Kigo Apis and Aniken Perman, 6-2, 6-2, while Isaac Heo and Andy Kim did the same against the CNMI-Guam pair of Ruma Lee and Aiden Schembari, 6-1, 6-2. Kim and Heo will be paired against No. 2 Gibson and Ysrael in the lower bracket semis, while at the upper bracket, Kang and Paik will duel Jacob Jackson and Sachdev.

In other results, Sam Ryu is two wins away from ruling the boys U16 singles as he got win No. 4 after downing FSM's Andy Sipos yesterday, 6-3, 6-0. Ryu will meet fellow CNMI player Eugene Park today and then Guam's Marshall Zhang (5-0) in the title-deciding match tomorrow.

In the girls U16 singles, Malika Miyawaki also needs to prevail in her last two games to clinch the division crown. She earned a 3-0 yesterday after easing past FSM's Anne Skilling, 6-3, 6-0. Next up for Miyawaki is Guam's Aprile Kim (1-1) and CNMI teammate Maria Gregoire (2-1).

CNMI

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Joyce, Lana King, Sue Anne Huevos, Summer Manahane, Jannah Casarino, Khristelle Itaas, Katrina Costales, and Nathanette Blas. Other members of the team are Christina Atalig, Jenny and Julie Capayas, Joannah Carreon, Abegail Decena, Keisha Deleon Guerrero, Marinel Falalimpa, Sydney Hinds, and Sophia Quintos. Jimmy Tang is the head coach and is assisted by Angie Ito, while Olympian Luan Khem Koo and Yu Hung Lee are the head of delegation and assistant team manager, respectively.

After the scoreless first half, Quality Distributors women's players used their experience and capitalized on the CNMI bets' fatigue to notch three goals.

"Unfortunately, our girls' lack of game fitness began to show during the second half of the game. Because of fatigue, they were no longer disciplined in covering collectively which created many holes for the opposition to attack," Vargas said.

"Although they were unable to come back, the coaches believe that they played very well and put up a great fight considering the experience, age, and skill difference of their opponents. Furthermore, with a handful of first timers, the girls now have a realistic idea of what soccer outside of our island demands from a player. After the game, many of them acknowledged their need to better their fitness level and showed a new found understanding as to why coach Koo pushes them so hard during the fitness part of their training sessions back home," the team manager added.

After the short stop in Guam, the CNMI team headed to the Philippines and was scheduled to arrive there yesterday morning. They will play two matches in the PH besides holdings training sessions at Tuloy Foundation, Inc., a non-profit group that provides residential care and services, including soccer training, to children and youth.

Upon completion of its training camp, the team will fly back to Saipan to continue their preparation for the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament.

The AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers Round 1 will take place from Sept. 15 to 23 with the CNMI heading to Tajikistan to play against the host, Thailand, Iran, and Singapore for the Group C matches. Five other pools will have their separate qualifying tournaments with the winners in each pool and two best runners-up advancing to the second round that will be played next year. Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Bangladesh are the hosts in the five other groups.

OL'ACES

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nately for the Ol'Aces, Santos was there for a trailer job and the putback that gave their team a 61-56 advantage, with less than a minute left in the game.

Another 670 Sonics XVIII booboo returned possession to the Ol'Aces when Jude Tengco dribbled the ball too much and lost it to Blake, who completed the play by feeding Abejo for the getaway layup and the eventual champion's 7-point lead, 63-56, down to the last 32 seconds of the match.

The 670 Sonics XVIII called its last timeout after that, hoping to stay in the game with a quick 2-pointer or a triple. Neither materialized, as Tengco was trapped in the corner by Santos and Blake and gave the possession away, again. The Ol'Aces then melted down the clock, while the 670 Sonics XVIII opted not to give up preemptive fouls—a sign that it had already waved the white flag.

Despite the lost, the 670 Sonics XVIII put on a gallant fight, starting its recovery from a 20-plus deficit with a little over four minutes left in the third period. The 670 Sonics XVIII had a 13-1 windup to bring the Ol'Aces' lead down to 10, 50-40. Tengco anchored the rally, scoring 9 points in that surge, including 7 straight to close the third period.

Then in the fourth canto, the 670 Sonics XVIII continued its uphill climb, outgunning the Ol'Aces in the first seven minutes and change to steal the lead, 56-54. The Ol'Aces lost control when it was held to a field goal for around 12 minutes, bridging the late third-quarter meltdown and majority of the fourth. However, the pennant champion showed poise down the stretch to rule the division with an unbeaten record in 14 games (11 in the elimination and three in the playoffs).

Santos was named Finals MVP for steadying the ship and scoring a game-high 20 markers in the title match. He also took the regular season MVP. N-Nes Siech and Karibiel finished the finals in twin digits, too, logging 16 and 11, respectively. Tengco paced the 670 Sonics XVIII with his 18 points.

Meanwhile, the CT Law NMI Rollers placed third after beating the 670 Sonics XVI in the consolation game, 57-53.

Cris Arceo towed the CT Law NMI Rollers to the 4-point victory after registering 23 markers.

Finals

Ol'Aces Real Deal 63 — Santos 20, Siech 16, Kabiriel 11, Blake 6, Abejo 4, Sacdalan 4, Peter 2.

670 Sonics XVIII 56 — Tengco 18, Alipio 16, Itaas 11, Rafols 6, Ordona 2, Diaz 2, Cobacha 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-8, 40-16, 50-40, 63-56.

Consolation

CT Law NMI Rollers 57 — Arceo 23, Oguromo 11, Valencia 10, Quitugua 4, Dela Cruz, Cruz 2, Johnny 2.

670 Sonics XVI 53 — R. Bernardo 17, Chavez 14, Contreras 7, Dancel 7, B. Bernardo 2, Galang 2, Mendoza 2.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Unpredictable Group H

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune's series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia end today with a feature about teams in Group H)

MOSCOW (AP)—There is no clear frontrunner in this group.

Poland maybe ahead in the FIFA rankings (No. 8) and has two veteran strikers, but inconsistencies in pre-World Cup games may hurt the team's chances in Russia.

No. 16 Colombia has a gem in James Rodriguez, but the La Tricolor also struggled in the qualifying and needs other players to shine in the biggest stage in the sport.

If the World Cup is a contest of athleticism alone, No. 27 Senegal is a sure winner with its speed-favored game. Senegal also has depth in talents, but putting them together to complement each other is the big question.

Japan is into its six straight World Cup appearance and has a core of experienced players—a plus for a game that requires reliability and chemistry. However, the Blue Samurai has a coach that was only squeezed into the team a little over two months before the World Cup begins.

POLAND

It's the first World Cup since 2006 for Poland, whose fans are likely to travel to Russia in large numbers. It could be the last chance to play on the biggest stage for strikers Robert Lewandowski and Jakub Blaszczykowski, who will be 29 and 32 respectively by the finals.

Poland is largely unchanged from the team that reached Euro 2016 quarterfinals where it lost on penalties to eventual champion Portugal. One concern in qualifying was a 4-0 thrashing by Denmark in September 20017, raising concerns about the defense.

KEY PLAYER: *Lewandowski* (Bayern Munich)—Already Poland's record goal scorer, he made a European-high 16 goals in qualifying.

KEY PLAYER: *Adam Nawalka*—Turned Poland from a counter-attacking team into one which seeks to dominate possession.

SENEGAL

Senegal is back at the World Cup for the first time since its stunning debut in 2002, when it beat defending champion France on the way to the quarterfinals, then only the second African team to make the last eight.

This qualification has been contentious, with Senegal benefiting from an unprecedented decision by FIFA to order a replay of its 2-1 loss in South Africa because of match-fixing by the referee. Senegal took advantage to win the replay, changing the dynamic of the group.

KEY PLAYER: *Sadio Mane* (Liverpool)—With his blistering pace, Mane has been every bit as effective for Senegal as he has for Liverpool.

KEY PLAYER: *Aliou Cisse*—Senegal will take a reminder of its dream World Cup debut in 2002 to Russia. Cisse was captain of the 2002 team and returns to the World Cup as coach of his country.

COLOMBIA

Reached the quarterfinals four years ago in Brazil and has the talent to do it again.

This will be Colombia's second straight appearance after sitting out for 16 years. Qualifying was a struggle this time. Colombia waited until the last match to make it to Russia.

KEY PLAYER: *James Rodriguez* (Bayern Munich)—A breakthrough talent at the 2014 World Cup, exemplified by a stunning volley against Uruguay, Rodriguez quickly secured a move from Monaco to Real Madrid. After struggling to make an impact in Spain, Rodriguez is at Bayern Munich on loan trying to revive his form ahead of the World Cup.

KEY PLAYER: *Jose Pekerman* —He gets much of the credit for getting Colombia back into the World Cup. Also led his native Argentina to the quarterfinals in the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

JAPAN

While the squad lacks the star power of many other World Cup teams, Japan can count on a group of reliable players with plenty of European experience. Shinji Kagawa of Borussia Dortmund and Shinji Okazaki of Leicester should play key roles.

Japan finished first in Group B in Asian qualifying, ahead of Saudi Arabia and Australia.

KEY PLAYER: *Shinji Kagawa* (Borussia Dortmund)—With 89 caps, the midfield star is part of an experienced core of players also including Okazaki, defender Yuto Nagamoto and midfielder Keisuke Honda.

KEY PLAYER: *Akira Nishino*— Japan's soccer association, the JFA, sacked head coach Vahid Halilhodžić with just over two months to go until the Russia 2018 World Cup. His replacement, JFA technical director Akira Nishino, has little chance to implement his style of soccer before Japan's first World Cup game against Colombia on June 19.

FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
Poland	15	50	31	15	5	11	44	40	1.6	7
Colombia	28	23	18	7	2	9	26	27	1.3	5
Japan	35	16	17	4	4	9	14	22	0.9	5
Senegal	45	8	5	2	2	1	7	6	1.6	1

MP : Matches played **GA** : Goals against
GS : Goal scored
APPS: World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

GROUP G SCHEDULE

Colombia VS Japan
(June 19, 10PM, Saransk)

Poland VS Colombia
(June 25, 4AM, Nizhny Novgorod)

Poland VS Senegal
(June 20, 1AM, Moscow)

Senegal VS Colombia
(June 29, 12AM, Samara)

Japan VS Senegal
(June 25, 1AM, Ekaterinburg)

Japan VS Poland
(June 29, 12AM, Volgograd)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Gregorius homers twice as Yankees top Nats

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Sports

Irving coy on possible reunion with LeBron

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CNMI U16 Women's Team holds training camp

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Members and coaches of CNMI U16 Women's National Team are off-island for a six-day training camp in preparation for their participation in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers Round 1.

The camp started in Guam with the 20-player squad challenging Quality Distributor in a training match last Monday. The visitors held their opponents to a scoreless first half before Quality Distributor managed to score three goals in the second.

"The girls did very well defensively during the first half of the game (30 minutes). Because of our disciplined covering and collectivity in our defensive half, we were able to hold the opposition to zero goal at halftime. Our goalkeeper (Emalyn Aniana) played such an essential and active role in containing the attacks of Quality Distributors—an area we used to struggle with in the past—which only attests to our continued growth," team manager Mikky Vargas said.

Aniana started out for the Commonwealth, along with captain Julie Anna Hall, Sharmaine Francisco, Paulynn

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The CNMI's Sharmaine Francisco, right, slides to deflect a kick from a Quality Distributor player during a training match at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo last Monday.

Ol'Aces Real Deal survives scare

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces Real Deal's Coby Santos, left, takes off for a layup against the 670 Sonics XVIII's Jude Tengco, right, during the closing minutes of their boys U18 division title game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces Real Deal averted a monumental collapse in the finals to slip past the 670 Sonics XVIII, 63-56, and clinch the boys U18 title in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces Real Deal had to squander a 20-plus lead before getting back to its feet in the closing minutes of the title game and surviving a scare from the 670 Sonics XVIII.

Coby Santos made a cold-blooded trey to douse the fired up 670 Sonics XVIII, which managed to steal the lead, 56-54, after trailing by 22, 49-27, late in the third period and falling behind by as much as 24, at the halftime break, 16-40.

Khristian Itaas's layup gave the 670 Sonics XVIII its first taste of the lead at the 2:12 mark of the fourth quarter, but that also served as the last basket for the team, as it committed one turnover after another to fall short in its comeback bid.

After losing the driver's seat, the Ol'Aces Real Deal kept their composure and Santos countered with a right corner triple to regain the lead right in the ensuing play, 57-56. Paulo Rafols tried to retaliate quickly when he drove to the basket, but missed, while the towering Dean Blake grabbed the rebound and made a touchdown pass to Kevin Kabiriel, who made the fastbreak layup for their 59-56 advantage 1:32 left on the clock.

The 670 Sonics XVIII sued for time after that, but when the game resumed, Itaas' inboun pass for Alipio inside was intercepted and the Ol'Aces went for another fastbreak layup. E.J. Abejo muffed the layup, for fortu-

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Gregoire, Kwon boost title bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Anthony Gregoire and David Kwon inched the CNMI closer to the championship in the boys U12 team event of the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships after keeping their perfect record.

The Commonwealth duo swept the Federated States of Micronesia 1's Theodore and Charles Ned yesterday at the Sheraton Ho-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Anthony Gregoire, seen here waiting for the shot of his opponent in last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, plays for CNMI Boys U12 team with David Kwon and they are still undefeated in the 2018 North Pacific Regional Championships being held in Guam.